REPORT

OF THE

Record Commissioners.

BOSTON TOWN RECORDS,

1770 THROUGH 1777.

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A REPORT

OF THE

RECORD COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

CONTAINING THE

BOSTON TOWN RECORDS, 1770 THROUGH 1777.

BOSTON:
ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS,
No. 39 ARCH STREET.
1887.

F 73.1
B74
v.12

178150

[Document 91 — 1887.]

CITY OF BOSTON.

A REPORT

OF THE

RECORD COMMISSIONERS.

The Eighteenth Report of the Record Commissioners is a continuation of the Sixteenth, and contains the proceedings of the town from 1770 through 1777.

It is almost superfluous to speak of the interest which will be felt in this report of the proceedings of the town during this important period. The resolves, instructions, and reports are essential to any correct understanding of the rise of the Revolution. Many of these papers have been published before, but it is instructive to read them in their proper sequence, and to see that the functions of the town, in small matters as well as great, were systematically attended to at all times.

It is suggestive to note that the town meeting of Boston for March 5, 1776, was held at Watertown; but with this exception, little appears on the record to show the suspension of civic rights during the occupancy of the town by British troops.

The ample indices will enable the student to promptly avail of the information herein collected.

WILLIAM H. WHITMORE,

For the Record Commissioners.

City Hall, Boston, Dec. 1, 1887.

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BOSTON TOWN RECORDS.

[FIFTH BOOK, CONTINUED.]

[**211.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 6th. Day of March 1770 — 11 O'Clock A : M : occasioned by the Massacre made in King Street, by the Soldiery the preceeding Night ——

The Selectmen not being present and the Inhabitants being informed that they were at the Council Chamber, it was Voted that Mr. William Greanleaff be desired to proceed there, and acquaint the Selectmen that the Inhabitants desire and expect their attendance at the Hall; and the Town Clerk acted as Moderator of this Meeting in the Interem ——

The Committee returned and informed that they had delivered the Message of the Town to the Selectmen, who had desired them to acquaint the Inhabitants, that they would give their attendance immediately ——

The Selectmen attend & Moderate ——

Upon a Motion made it was Voted, that if any of the Inhabitants present could give information respecting the Massacre of the last Night, that they be desired to do it in Meeting, that the same might be minuted by the Town Clerk ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that Constable Wallace wait upon the Revd. Dr. Cooper, and acquaint him that the Inhabitants desire him to open the Meeting with Prayer ——

Information given in by Mr. John S. Coply, that Mr. Pelham and his Wife and some Persons of Mr. Samuel Wenthrops Family, heard a Soldier to say after the fixing on the last Night, *that the Devil might give quarters he should give them none* ——

Information given in by Mr. John Scott, that a Lad of Mr. [**212.**] Peirpoints said at Mr. Cherdons, that a Soldier was heard to say *that his Officer had acquainted them, that if they went abroad at Nights, they should go armed and in Companies* ——

Mr. Peirpoints informs *that before the firing on the last Night he had disarmed a Soldier who had struck down one of the Inhabitants*

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.

Chosen Moderator of this Meeting by a Hand Vote ——

Mr. Pool Spear informs, that last Week he heard one Kilson a Soldier of Pharras Company say, that he did not know what the Inhabitants were after, for that they had broke an Officers Win-

dows (meaning Nathaniel Roger's Windows) but that they had a scheeme on foot which would soon put a stop to our proceedure — that Parties of Soldiers were ordered with Pistols in their Pockets, and to fire upon those who should assault said House again, and that Ten Pounds Sterling was to be given as a Reward, for their killing one of those Persons, and fifty pounds sterling for a Prisoner ——

The Persons that appeared to give Informations relative to the Soldiery, being many, it was found inconvenient to take them in the Meeting, it was therefore Voted, that ——

M^r. William Greanleaff
M^r. William Whitwell
M^r. Samuel Whitwell

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take the Depositions which are offered respecting the conduct of the Soldiery

The Inhabitants having considered of the steps proper to be taken by them upon this alarming occasion ——

Voted that

[213.] The Honble. Thomas Cushing, Moderator
John Hancock Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
M^r. Samuel Adams
M^r. William Phillips
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
M^r. Samuel Austin
Benjamin Austin Esq.
Coll^o. Joseph Jackson
M^r. William Mollineux
D^r. Benjamin Church
M^r. Jonathan Mason
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.

be a Committee to wait on his Honor the Lieu^t. Governor; and acquaint him; that it is the unanimous Opinion of this Meeting, that the Inhabitants and Soldiery can no longer dwell together in safety; that nothing can be rationally expected to restore the peace of the Town, and prevent blood and Carnage, but the immediate removal of the Troops; and that they therefore most fervently pray his Honor that his power & influence may be exerted for their instant removal. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[214.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 6 Day of March Anno Domini 1770. — 3 O'Clock, P: M: ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting ——

Faneuil Hall not being Capasious enough to receive the Inhabi-

tants who attended; Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Dr. Sewalls Meeting House ——

The Committee appointed to deliver a Message of the Town to his Honor Leuvitenant Governor, Reported, and laid before the Town the Reply they had received from his Honor in Writing which is as follows ——

Gentlemen

I am extremely sorry for the unhappy differences between the Inhabitants and the Troops — and especially for the action of the last Evening, and I have exerted myself upon that occasion, that a due inquiry may be made and that the Law may have its course. I have in Council consulted with the Commanding Officers of the two Regiments which are in the Town. They have their Orders from the General at New York. It is not in my power to countermand those Orders. The Council have desired that the two Regiments may be removed to the Castle. From the particular concern which the 29th. Regiment has had in these differences Colle. Dalrymple who is the Commanding Officer of the Troops has signified to me that the Regiments shall without delay be placed in the Barracks at the Castle untill he can send to ye [**215.**] The General and receive his further Orders concerning both the Regiment and that the Main Guard shall be removed and the 14th. Regiments so disposed and laid under such restraint, that all occasion of future differences may be prevented ——

The foregoing Reply having been read, and fully considered the Question was put — "Whether the Report be satisfactory— Passed in the Negative almost unanimously — (but one dessentient) ——

It was then moved and Voted, that

The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Mr. William Mollineux
William Phillips Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to wait on his Honor the Lieut. Governor, and inform him, that it is the unanimous opinion of this Meeting, that the Reply made to a Vote of the Inhabitants presented his Honor in the Morning is by no means satisfactory, and that nothing less will satisfy them, than a total and immediate removal of the Troops.

The Committee having waited upon his Honor the Lieut. Governor agreable to the foregoing Vote; laid before the Inhabitants the following Vote of Council, removed from his Honor ——

His Honor the Lieut. Governor laid before the Board a Vote of the Town of Boston passed this Afternoon, and then Addressed the Board as follows ——

Gentlemen of the Council I lay before you a Vote of the Town of Boston, which I have Just now received from them, and I now ask your advice what you Judge necessary to be done upon it ——

[**216.**] The Council thereupon expressed themselves to be

unanimously of Opinion that it was absolutely necessary for his Majestys service and the good order of the Town and the peace of the Province that the Troops should be immediately removed out of the Town of Boston, and thereupon advised his Honor to communicate this advice of the Council to Coll°. Dalrymple, and to pray that he would order the Troops down to Castle William ——

The Committee also informed the Town, that Coll°. Dalrymple after having seen the above Vote of Council, said to the Committee That he now gave his word of honor that he would begin his preparation in the Morning, and that there should be no unnecessary delay untill the whole of the two Regiments were removed to the Castle ——

The above Report of the Committee having been read, by the Town Clerk; the Inhabitants could not but express the high satisfaction, which it afforded them ——

The Town having determined that it was highly necessary and expedient to have a strong Watch of our own for the protection of the Inhabitants in the Night, untill the troops would remove, and the Committee who delivered the last Message to the Lieu^t^. Governor having kindly offered to make themselves a part of the Watch for this Night, their offer was gratefully accepted and said Committee were desired to take such a number of the Inhabitants with them as they might think proper, and also to appoint a Watch for succeeding Nights; and as it was concluded that the Townsmen were now very generally provided with Arms and Ammunition, it was agreed that in case of any disturbance in the Night they should repair to a place they may appoint for a general Muster ——

[217.] Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, unanimously That this Town have the greatest abhorrence of one of its Inhabitants vizt. — Samuel Water-house, who in defiance of the united sentiment not only of his Fellow Citizens, but all his Fellow Countrymen expressed repeatedly in the Votes and Records of the Honble. House of Representatives of this Province, has continued to accommodate Troops at this time so Justly obnoxious to a free People and abhorrent to a free Constitution, and thereby basely prostituted a once respectable Mansion House to the use of a Main Guard——

A Copy of one of the Hand Bills posted up the Evening preceeding the horrid Massacre, was read to the Town, and diverse Testimonies relative to that bloody affair ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. the Moderator for dispatching the Business of this Meeting ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meet-

ing Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday — the 12th. Day of March Anno Domini 1770 ——

Prayer, was made by the Revd. Dr. Cooper ——

Warrant, for calling the Meeting - - - read ——

[218.] Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by an Act of this Province ——

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which oaths were Administered to him by one of his Majesties Justices present at the Meeting ——

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted, it appeared that

Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
Mr. Jonathan Mason

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting it appeared that ——

John Barrett Esq.
The Honble. Royal Tyler Esq.
Mr. Benjamin Dolbear
Mr. William Whitwell
[219.] Mr. William Greanleaff
William White Esq.
Mr. Joseph Waldo
John Leveret Esq.
John Gore Esq.
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Thomas Tyler Esq.
Mr. Samuel Whitwell

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing — see May 15 ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared that

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
William Phillips Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock. Esq.
John Scollay Esq.
Mr. William Greanleaff

Mr. William Whitwell
Benjamin Austin. Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. Moses Gill
Mr. Samuel Austin

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Grenough Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
[220.] Mr. John Mico Wendell
Thomas Marshall Esq.
William Homes Esq.
Mr. Joseph Tyler ——
Capt. Adino Paddock
Mr. James Richardson
Capt. Benjamin Waldo
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams ——
Thomas Daws Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put — vizt. — "Whether Constables and Collectors of Taxes shall be chose sepperate — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pound Fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing and shall decline serving ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables, the Persons chose into that Office are ——

Messrs. Augustus Hail
Francis Salmon
George Thomas
Peter Barbour
Thomas Rice
Joseph Payson
Lindsey George Wallace
Hezekiah Usher
John Wells
[221.] Stephen Symms
Edward Blake
Elias Dupee ——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appear'd that Mr. David Jeffries was chosen, & having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which Oaths were Administred to him by Mr. Justice

Messrs. John Pulling
John Andrews

Nathaniel Wheatley
Elisha Avery
Benjamin Jackson
Henry Jackson
Thomas Hill Junr.
Joseph Laughton
William Foster
Samuel Parker
Samuel Wallis
Ellis Gray

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing ——

Voted, that the Sum of *Twelve* Pence on the Pound, be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect; provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the tenth Day of August 1771. *Eight* Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums as they shall have so paid in to said Treasurers on or before the 20 Day of December 1771. and *Four* Pence on the Pound upon the remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to Collect provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the Second Monday in March [**222.**] 1772. This Premium as above expressed appears to be Just and equitable, and an ample allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their duty with diligence and fidelity; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Messrs. Sampson Salter
Edward Hollyday
Mr. Samuel Ruggles
Mr. Abraham Savage

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Mr. William Fairfield
Mr. John Kneeland
Mr. Benjamin Church
Belcher Noyes. Esq.
Mr. Daniel Pecker
Mr. Jonathan Brown
Moses Deshon Esq.

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing ——

Mr. Speaker Cushing Chairman of the Committee appointed at a former Town Meeting, having received Letters from Mr. Pownal the late worthy Governor of this Province, and some other Gentlemen to whom they had transmitted the Phamphlets which contained Remarks on Governor Bernards Letters &c. — laid the same before the Town ——

[**223.**] A Letter to the Selectmen of Boston inclosing the

Votes of the Town of Watertown, respecting the Non Importation Agreement Tea &c. were laid before the Town——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M: ——

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

The Moderator having laid before the Town a Letter from Mr. Sheriff Greanleaff representing the danger there was of some of the Prisoners in the County Jayl making an escape, and that it is his Opinion, that in order to prevent it the County Watch should be doubled, but that the Court of Session not meeting till April next cannot be apply'd to for this purpose — therefore Voted, That the Sheriff be and hereby is impowered and directed to double said Watch in the manner he has proposed, and that in case the Court of Session at their next sitting, should decline defreying the Charge upon his application to them therefore, that then the Town will be answerable for the same ——

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in and sealed up in Town Meeting, and delivered to the care of Constable Hale to be returned to the Court of Session ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that the Committee of the Town now sitting at the Representatives Chamber, be desired to attend this Meeting by a Committee to inform the Town what progress has been made in the removal of the Troops from this Town

The Committee attended, and Reported — That they had attended the Business alotted them by the Town, Night and Day, and done every thing in their power by their repeated applications to Coll°. Dalrymple to expedite the removal of the Troops, that the 29 Regiment was already [224.] Gone, and the Coll°. had assured them that the 14th. Regiment should begin to follow them this Day, and that no time should be lost in removing them ——

The above Report having been considered, Voted, unanimously that ——

The Honble John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Mr. William Mollineux
Dr. Joseph Warren
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be a Committee immediately to wait upon Coll°. Dalrymple to inform him that this Town have now waited Seven Days, for the removal of the 14 & 29th Regiments agreable to his express promise made in presence of the Lieut. Governor his Majestys Council and ye. Committee of the Town to remove the same with the utmost dispatch; that the Town is very uneasy and apprehend the Inhabitants are unsafe, while the Troops remain in Town, and that they are therefore obliged for the protection of the Inhabitants to keep up a military Watch during their tarry at a great expence; that it is the opinion of the Town that the removal of the said two Regiments may consistent with the usual dispatch of the Army be soon compleated, and that it is the desire of the Town that the removal of the Troops may be immediately effected, and that the

Committee obtain an explicit answer from Coll°. Dalrymple, when the said Regiments shall be compleatly removed ——

Messrs. William Nichols
Andrew Symms
Clement Collins
Henry Allen
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
[225.] Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
John Skillins
John Sergeant
Richard Walker
John Champney
John Bulfinch
Abraham Howard
Joseph Butler
Joseph Eyres
Thomas Bayley
John Gill
Andrew Townsend
Joseph Ballard

were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Samuel Dyer
John Dyer
Obediah Low
John Joy
William Crafts

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Benjamin Bass
Samuel Bangs
Nathan Cooper
Thomas Noland
Benjamin Cooper

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Nathaniel Gardner
William Daws Junr.

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing ——

[226.] Messrs. Peter Cotta
Manesseh Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Harskins
David Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Robert Brick Junr.
Job Wheelwright
Joshua Pico
Benjamin Salt
Paul Baxter
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White

Edward Cowell
Edward Potter
Peter Ellis
Timothy Pease
Nathaniel Waterman
Jacob Williams
Samuel Bernard
John Nowell
Joseph Phillips
Henry Lucas

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. David Simins
Thomas Curtis ——

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing ——

Committee to wait on Coll°. Dalrymple Reported — That they had delivered the Message of the Town, to which he was pleased to Reply — That not a Man of the 29th. Regiment was now in Town, and that between Thursday Night and Fryday Morning not one of the 14th. Regiment, except himself, would remain here ——

[227.] Voted, that John Hancock Esq. and others the above Committee be desired to pursue their application to Coll°. Dalrymple and the Lieut. Governor, that the Troops be removed with the greatest dispatch ——

Voted, that the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
M^r. John Adams
M^r. Josiah Quincy

be a Committee to write immediately to the Honble. Isaac Barree Esq. Thomas Pownal Esq. Dennis Deberdt Esq. D^r. Benjamin Franklyn Esq. William Bollan Esq. Barlow Trecothick Esq. acknowledging our obligation for past favors, acquainting them with the Circumstances & Facts relative to the late horred Massacre, and asking the continuance of their good services in behalf of this Town and Province ——

Voted, That the Thanks of this Town be given to the Town of Roxbury for their kind interposition and Assistance in our late distress particularly by their Petition to the Lieut. Governor on our behalf — also

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to the Towns of Charlestown, Cambridge, Watertown, and to all our Brethren in the Towns through the Province for the kind concern they manifested for us in the late horred Massacre by the Soldiery, and their readiness to afford us all that assistance which our Circumstances might have required, and that these Votes be printed in the several News Papers ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Thursday next 9. O'Clock P: M: ——

Tuesday March 13 9. O'Clock P: M: Town met ——
M^r. John Gray

was chosen Surveyer of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

[228.] M^r. Thomas Curtis

was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing

Upon a Motion made and seconded it was Voted, that one Scavinger be chosen out of each Ward ——

		Wards.
Messrs.	William Clough - - - - - - - - - -	N°. 1.
	John Cogswell - - - - - - - - - -	2
	Benjamin Harrod - - - - - - - - -	3
	Benjamin Mulbury Homes - - - - -	4
	Hopestill Capen - - - - - - - - -	5
	Benjamin Goldthwait - - - - - - -	6
	Andrew Cammel - - - - - - - - -	7
	Jeremiah Belknap - - - - - - - -	8
	Henry Laughton - - - - - - - - -	9
	David Wheeler Junr. - - - - - - -	10
	Richard Jennings - - - - - - - - -	11
	Joseph Dorr. - - - - - - - - - -	12

were chose Scavingers for the Year ensuing ——

The Selectmen

were chose Surveyers of High Ways for the Year ensuing

Messrs. John Holland
John Rogers

were chose Surveyers of Boards for the Year ensuing

Voted, that Nicholas Boylston Esq.
Mr. Thomas Gray
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. John Pitts
Thomas Daws Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the [**229.**] Accompts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoin'd to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys expended for the use of the Almshouse; they are also impower'd when they shall Audit said Accounts to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance Moneys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such sums from the time so advanced; 'till they shall have Audited said Accompts And they are also desired to Report from time to time a state of the Treasury respecting the Debts and Credits, and on any matters that they may think proper ——

John Tuder Esq.
Mr. John Lucas

were chose Surveyers of Wheat for the Year ensuing ——

Collo. Joseph Jackson
Nicholas Boylston Esq.
William Homes Esq.

were chosen purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impowerd to give all needful direction to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the quantity of Grain to be sold, & affixing the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require. And the said Committee are desired and directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be ground at the new Mills near the Mill Bridge now occupied by Mr. George Leonard ——

Capt. Martin Gay
Mr. John Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing ——

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to inforce the duty of Scavingers upon such as have been chose; and if they should find any defects in the Laws relating to those Officers, that they Report the same to the Town, that they may act thereon as they shall Judge convenient.

[230.] Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed to set for abatement of such taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Wednesday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November for the Abatements of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying on the above limitted time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which time they are also allowed and impowered to Abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April, and the last Day of November.

Voted, that the Consideration of School Masters Salarys and all other Salarys and Grants be referred over to next May Meeting ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is impowered and directed to borrow on Interest the Sum of Three hundred pounds for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Alms-house

Upon a motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is directed and impowered to give his negotiable Note upon Interest to such of the Overseers of the Poor as are in advance for the Relief of the Town, for such Sums as appear to be due to them respectively upon the Auditing of their Accompts to the present Month

The Selectmen Reported on the Accompt of Mr. Benjamin Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Accompt as entred in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read — whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 683 Bushels of Indian Corn & 244 Bushels of Rye amounting to £124 ,, 0 ,, 2 . and also for the Sum of £103 ,, 0 ,, 11¾ Cash now in his hands exclusive of the sum of £32 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary and attendance as charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him ——

[231.] That Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "To take some further steps if necessary to strengthen the Hands of the Merchants relative to the Non Importation Agreement; for the discountenancing the consumption of Tea, and other Articles of Foreign Luxury; for employing the Poor by encouraging Home Manufactures" — was read — as was also some Votes of the Town of Charlestown respecting the Sale of Tea — whereupon

Voted, that - - - Messrs. John Sweetser
Peter Boyer
William Fallass
Francis Shaw
Alexander Hill

be a Committee to draw up an Agreement for the Shopkeepers that have or do deal in Tea, not to dispose of any more of that Article untill the Revenue Acts are repealed, and they are desired

to present the same to every Trader for his Signing; and Report at the Adjournment — also

Voted, that — John Rowe Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
Mr. William Dennie
William Phillips. Esq.
Isaac Smith Esq
Mr. Timothy Fitch

be a Commitee to take into Consideration what further steps are necessary to strengthen the Non Importation Agreement; discountenance the consumption of the Tea and other Forreign Luxuries, and for employing the Poor by encouraging Home-Manufactures — to Report to the Town from time to time as they may think proper, what they shall apprehend the most likely means to answer these good purposes ——

The Petition of Mr. Jacob Emmons "praying the Town would make him a Grant of Money for his Land taken from him by a new Street being laid out by his Majestys Justices and the Selectmen of this Town thro' his Land in Paddys Alley, or to take such other steps for relieving him in the [232.] Premisses as the Town may think proper" — was read, whereupon

Voted that Thomas Daws Esq.
Mr. William Gray
Mr. William Whitwell
William Homes Esq.
Mr. Robert Peirpoint

be a Committee to consider the Petition and Report as soon as may be what may be proper for the Town to do thereon ——

That Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "What steps may be further necessary for obtaining a particular Account of all proceedings relative to the Massacre in King Street on Monday Night last, that a full and Just representation may be made thereof" — was read — whereupon

Voted that The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be a Committee for this important Business, and they are desired to Report as soon as may be ——

Voted that — be and they hereby are appointed a Committee for and in behalf of the Town to find out who those Persons are that were the Perpetrators of the horred Murders and Massacres done and committed in King Street on several of the Inhabitants in the Evening of the 5th. Instant and take such Examinations and Depositions as they can procure, and lay the whole thereof before the Grand Inquest in order that such Perpetrators may be Indicted and brought to Tryal for the same, and upon Indictments being found, said Committee are desired to propose Matters for the Kings Attorney, to attend at their Tryals in the Superior Court, Subpena all the Witnesses, and do every thing necessary for bringing those Murderers to that punishment for such Crimes, as the Laws of God and Man require — also

[230.] Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to employ one or more Council to offer to the Kings Attorney as Assistance to him in the tryal of the Murtherers now committed; and in case the Kings Attorney should refuse such Assistance, and the Relatives of those Persons who were murthered should apply for it, that then the Town will bear the Expence that may accrue thereby ——

The Petition of Mr. William Crafts "that he may be permitted to fence in a small Slip of Land bordering on the Mill Pond, and at the back of his House in Sudbury Street, now the Receptacle of all manner of filth in order to prevent its continuing a Nusance, 'till the Town shall think proper to give further Orders respecting the Same" — was read — whereupon ——

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to take this Petition under Consideration, and Report thereon; they are also desired to make enquiry, and Report as soon as may be what incroachments have been made on the Towns Lands near the Mill Pond. ——

That Article in the Warrant — (Vizt.) "Whether the Town will take any measures, that a public Monument may be Erected on the spot where the late Tragical Scene was acted, as a Memento to Posterity of that horred Massacre, and the destructive Consequences of Military Troops being quartered in a well regulated City" — was read and considered, and the Town being of Opinion that an Event of such publick and universal Concernment, must be the Object of the attention of the General Assembly, — Voted unanimously to refer the further Consideration of this matter to the Adjournment of this Meeting

That Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "Whether Application shall be made to the General Court that an Act may be passed that his Majestys Justices of the Peace may be impower'd to Convict any Person or Persons who shall refuse to work at a Fire, upon the Oath of the Fire-ward, was read & debated, & the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative ——

[234.] A Letter and Votes from the Town of Cambridge was read to the Inhabitants ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday March 16th. 9. O'Clock A: M: ——

Fryday March 16th 9. O'Clock A: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

The Town being informed that Mr. Cushing chosen Moderator of this Meeting on the 12. Instant was prevented from giving his Attendance; proceeded to the choice of another Gentleman to Moderate during the necessary absence of Mr. Cushing, and Richard Dana Esq. was chosen, and took the Oath respecting his paying and recieving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province which Oaths were Administred to him by Mr. Justice Hill ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that a Committee be sent to the Committee of the Town meeting at the Town House, to know from them whether all the Troops had left us ——

Mr. William Mollineux one of the above Committee came into Town Meeting and informed the Town that he had this Morning been with Coll°. Dalrymple to know how far he had proceeded in sending away the Troops, when he had assured him that the whole of what remained would be embarqued in four Boats by One O'Clock, when they would immediately go down to Castle Island ——

Moved & Voted that the above Committee be desired to take such Measures for keeping up a Military Watch untill the Adjournment of this Meeting as they shall think proper — and that Coll°. Jackson [**235.**] Be desired to continue the Military Watch 'till said Adjournment

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday Morning 9. O'Clock A: M: ——

March 19. 9. O'Clock A: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

Voted, that Mr. Samuel Adams
John Hancock Esq.
John Barret Esq.
be a Committee to draw up a Memorial to the Lieuvetenant Governor and Council praying that special Justices may be appointed for the Superior Court now sitting in the room of those who may be necessarily prevented by sickness from attending their duty; that so the Tryals of the many Criminals now committed may not be postponed ——

The Committee appointed on the 12 Instant to prepare a Representation of the Facts and Circumstances relative to the late horred Massacre, laid before the Town a Draft of such a Representation, which was read and considered — whereupon — Voted unanimously, that the same be accepted, and that the draft be recommitted for a further Revision, and when the same is compleated, that they forward Copys thereof by the first Opportunity to such Gentlemen in England as were mentioned in a former Vote ——

A Motion made that a Fishing Schooner might be hired by the Town as a Packet to carry home their Dispatches relative to the late horred Massacre — whereupon Voted, that
Capt. John Bradford
Mr. William Mollineux
John Barret Esq.
[**236.**] Be and hereby are appointed and impowered to take up a suitable Vessel immediately upon the best terms they can, which Packet is to proceed to England with such Dispatches as the Committee to make Representation shall have to send ——

Capt. Dashwood offered himself in Town Meeting, to go Home charged with the Delivery of such Dispatches as were going by the Packet; which offer was gratefully accepted by the Town

Voted, that the Town will defrey the Expence which will accrue by means of Capt. Dashwoods going Home with the Dispatches ——

It having been mentioned in Town Meeting that Capt. Robson lately sayled for London had before his departure spoken that which highly reflected upon the Inhabitants of this Town especially the Body of Merchants; the Committee of Examination were de-

sired to make enquiry relative thereto, and Report at the Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed to prepare a Petition to the Governor in Council relative to the Appointment of Special Justices, Reported a Draft which was accepted, and the Town ordered that the same be presented as soon as may be

Upon a Motion made and Voted, that the Representation made by a Committee of the late horred Massacre by the Soldiery in King Street, be printed——

Mr. William Mollineux informed the Town that the whole of the Troops were now removed to Castle Island, and that he had good reason to think, they would all be soon sent out of the Province

[237.] Upon a Motion made the following Vote passed unanimously (Vizt.) — The Merchants not only of this Metropolis, but through the Continent, having nobly preferred the publick Good to their own private Emolument: And with a vow to obtain a redress of the Grievances so loudly and Justly complained of, having *almost unanimously* engaged to suspend their Importations from Great Britain; a measure approved by all Orders, as legal peaceable and most likely of *all others* to effect the salutary design in view, and which will be regarded by Posterity with Veneration, for the disinterested and truly publick Spirit appearing in it: The Town cannot but express their Astonishment and Indignation, that any of its Citizens should be so lost to the feelings of Patriotism and the common Interest, and so thoroughly and infamously selfish as to obstruct *this very* measure, by continuing their Importation. — *Be it therefore* SOLEMNLY VOTED, that the Names of those Persons, *few* indeed to the Honor of the Town, vizt. — JOHN BERNARD, JAMES Mc. MASTERS, PATRICK Mc. MASTERS, JOHN MEIN, NATHANIEL ROGERS, WILLIAM JACKSON, THEOPHILUS LILLIE, JOHN TAYLOR, AME AND ELIZABETH CUMMINS, ISRAEL WILLIAMS ESQ. & SON OF HATFIELD, AND HENRY BARNES OF MARLBURROUGH, be entred on the Records of this Town that POSTERITY may know who those Persons were that preferred their little private Advantage to the common Interest of all the Colonies, in a Point of the greatest Importance; who not only deserted but opposed their Country in a struggle for the Rights of the Constitution. that must ever do it Honor; And who with a design to enrich themselves, basely took Advantage of the generous self denial of their Fellow Citizens for the common Good — also

Voted, That the Thanks of this Town be given to all the Towns through the Province that have in their late Meetings with a generous & truly publick Spirit, passed such Resolutions and Votes, as must greatly strengthen and confirm the salutary and necessary Measure of Non Importation entred into by the Merchants and Traders of this and other Maritime Places: At the same time the Town cannot but express their hopes that the Patriotick Spirit so widely diffused, and so nobly ardent, uniting all parts [238.] Of the Province, and disposing them with Alacrity to aid one another upon all Occasions in the common cause, a Spirit not confined to but extending to all the Colonies, will ensure by the blessing of Heaven the Prosperity of the whole, and soon produce a thorough

effectual and permanent relief from our great and common Grievances ——

The Committee appointed on the 13th. Instant to procure Subscriptions to an Agreement not to dispose of Forreign Tea untill the Revenue Acts shall be repealed, having Reported to the Town that their number was too small to answer the end of their Appointment

Voted, that Messrs. John Ballard
Nathaniel Holmes
Samuel Salsbury
John Simpkins
Samuel Ruggles Junr.
Ebenezer Dorr
John Lowell

be added to the Committee relative to Tea, who are desired to Report as soon as may be ——

That Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "To consider of some effectual Methods to prevent unlicensed Strangers and other Persons from entertaining and supplying the Youth and Servants of the Town with spirituous Liquors; for the breaking up of bad Houses; and removal of any disorderly Intruders to the Places from whence they came; and for the further discountenancing of Vice, and promoting a Reformation of Manners;" was read & considered whereupon

Voted, that Richard Boynton Esq.
John Tuder Esq.
John Hill Esq.
Capt. John Bradford
Mr. Ezekiel Price

[**239.**] Be a Committee to take this Article into their Consideration, and Report as soon as may be ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday next being the 26. Instant 9. O'Clock. A: M: ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 22d. of March A: D: 1770 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - read

William Phillips Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province ——

The Committee chosen at an Adjournment of the last Meeting to take up a suitable Vessel to send to England with such Dispatches as the Committee Appointed to make Representation of the late horred Massacre should have to send — Reported that they had agreeble to said Vote hired a Schooner of Capt. Gardner for One hundred *Pounds* and twenty Pounds Sterling which Vessel would be ready for sayling by to Morrow — But it being the sense

of the Town that the whole transactions at the Adjournment of March Meeting on the 19th. Inst. relative to the taking up a Vessel for the purpose aforesaid, was null and void, as the same had not been inserted in the Warrant for calling said Meeting; it was determined to take up this Matter anew; and [**240.**] That Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "To know the Mind of the Town whether a Vessel shall be hired as a Packet to carry the Dispatches to London relative to the late Massacre, being read & considered; it was Voted unanimously, that ——

John Barrett Esq.
Mr. William Mollineux
Capt. John Bradford

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take up for the Town a suitable Vessel as a Packet to carry such Dispatches to London as the Committee to make Representation &c. of the late Massacre in Boston by the Soldiery may have to send——

Capt. Gardner came into Town Meeting and informed the Town, that he had got a Mate for his Schooner, upon whom he could depend, also a Hand extraordinary; and that if it be the mind of the Town: he would endeavor to secure a Landing upon the first English Ground he might make, and then immediately proceed to London in order to deliver with his own hand the Packets he may be intrusted with, to the Gentlemen to whom they shall be directed ——

The Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "To determine whether the Town will employ any Person beside the Captain of the Packet to be the Carrier of the Dispatches," was read, and considered, and the Question being accordingly put — passed in the Negative ——

Whereas Capt. Samuel Dashwood at a former Meeting of the Town generously offered to proceed to London with the Dispatches of the Town relative to the late horred Massacre, without fee or reward therefore Voted, unanimously, That the Thanks of the Town be given to Capt. Dashwood for the above generous offer, [**241.**] Altho' the Town are since of Opinion that it is not necessary to employ any other Person for that purpose beside the Capt. of the Packet ——

The other Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "To Agree upon some method of raising Money" for defreying the Charges that may be occasioned by sending a Vessel to England with Dispatches; was also read and considered — whereupon Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is impower'd and directed to borrow upon Interest the Sum of One hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling for which he is to give his Negotiable Note or Notes in order to defrey the Charge of Vessels hire and other Expences that may arise upon the sending and delivery of the Towns Dispatches to the Gentlemen to whom they will be directed ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that

The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

Appointed a Committee to make Representation of the late horred Massacre by the Soldiery in Boston be desired to transmit by the

Packet to his Grace the Duke of Richmond, General Conway, and such other Gentlemen as they may think proper, one or more of those Representations so soon as they are printed ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to William Phillips Esq. the Moderator for dispatching the Business of this Meeting ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[**242.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall by Adjournment from March 19 to March 26th 1770. 9. O'Clock A: M: ——

The Hon$^{b'e}$. Thomas Cushing Esq. the Moderator being obliged to attend the General Court setting at Cambridge, and Richard Dana Esq. chosen a Pro. Temp. Moderator during his absence being now confined by sickness — the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for another, when it appeared that — Joshua Henshaw Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting Pro. Temp. and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the New England Governments as required by an Act of this Province ——

The Committee appointed "to consider of some effectual Methods to prevent unlicensed Strangers and others from selling Spirituous Liquors; for the breaking up of Bad Houses &c. and for the further discountenancing of Vice and promoting a Reformation of Manners" — Reported, that it was their Opinion, that full and ample provision is made in the Laws of this Province for those purposes. And in order more effectually to put said Laws in execution, the Committee recommend that twelve Tything Men one in each Ward of the Town be chosen whose duty is particularly pointed out in the Laws, and if executed properly, may in a great measure answer the good intentions of the Town — which Report having been considered — the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the affermative: And the Committee were desired to set again and Report further at May Meeting ——

The Town were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for twelve Tything-Men and upon sorting them it appeared that

Messrs: John Preston
William Fallass
Andrew Oliver
[**243.**] Nicholas Bowes
Stephen Whiting
John Clough
Henry Roby
Thomas Kemble
Isaac Greenwood
Benjamin Gooding
Samuel Abbot
Daniel Parker

were chose Tything-Men for the Year ensuing ——

The Committee appointed to "consider what further steps are necessary to strengthen the Non Importation Agreement; discountenance the Consumption of Tea and for employing the Poor by encouraging Home Manufactures, and to Report to the Town from time to time the most likely means to answer these good purposes" now Report — That the best method of employing the Tradesmen and poor People in this Town is in the natural branch of Ship building which has been the staple and principal means of employing of the People; and that they have the pleasure and satisfaction to Report, that there will be three Vessels set up for that purpose in this Town" — which Report being put passed in the affermative by a unanimous Vote ——

The Committee appointed to prepare a true state of facts relating to the execrable Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5 Inst., in order that the same be transmitted to Great Britain, having accordingly Reported; and the Report being accepted by the Town and ordered to be printed — And whereas the publishing said Narrative with the Depositions accompanying it in this County, may be supposed by the unhappy Persons now in custody for tryal as tending to give an undue Byass to the minds of the Jury who are to try the same — therefore Voted, that the Committee reserve all the printed Copies in their Hands excepting those to be sent to Great Britain 'till the further orders of the Town ——

[**244.**] Voted, that the Town Clerk be directed not to give out Copies or deliver any of the Original Papers respecting the late horred Massacre; till the special order of the Town, or the direction of the Selectmen ——

The Committee appointed by the Town to get the Sellers of Tea subscribe not to sell any more Teas, till the late Revenue Acts are repealed — Reported — That they had attended that service, and that the Sellers of Tea have very generally signed not to sell, a few Persons excepted, who say they will not be singular, but will sign if its general — Mem. 212 Sellers have signed ——

The Votes and Resolutions of the Town of Charlestown respecting Tea delivered in to this Meeting, were read and considered of ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that

Richard Dana Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
Mr. John Adams
William Phillips Esq.
Mr. Josiah Quincy
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be a Committee to supervise the Laws relative to breaking into Houses and Stores; as also other Laws that have appeared difficient & Report such Amendments as they think proper at the May Meeting ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday 4. O'Clock P: M: ——

Tuesday March 27. 1770. 4 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

[245.] The Town having been informed by several Persons that a number of Soldiers with their Baggage landed Yesterday at Wheelwrights Wharff — one Gentleman supposing that there was not less than Sixty Men — Voted, that

Mr. William Mollineux
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

be a Committee to make enquiry from time to time, whether any more Troops came up from Castle Island than they think necessary, and if they shall find it to be otherwise, that they then immediately acquaint the Selectmen in order for their calling a Meeting of the Inhabitants

Voted, that all Matters and things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next to be then considered of and acted upon ——

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. and the other Gentlemen, Moderator and Pro. Temp. Moderators of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[246.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 8th. Day of May Anno Domini — 1770 ——

Prayer was made by the Revd. Dr. Chauncey

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting — read ——

Sundry Laws - - - - - - - read ——

Joshua Henshaw Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the Choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembly to be held at —— upon Wednesday the 30th of May Currant, and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the Choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock——

The Votes being brought in the number of the same were found to be Five hundred and thirteen and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chose — Vizt.—

The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq. - - - - -	439
Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - -	510
Mr. Samuel Adams - - - - - - - - -	510
Honble. John Hancock Esq. - - - - -	511

[247.] The choice of Representatives being over & declared by the Selectmen the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned

in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen ——

The Honble. *James Otis Esq.* having by the advice of his Physicians, retired into the Country for the recovery of his Health.

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to the *Honble. James Otis Esq;* for the great and important Services which as a Representative in the General Assembly through a Course of Years He has rendered to this Town and Province; particularly for his undaunted Exertions in the Common Cause of the Colonies from the beginning of the present glorious Struggle for the Rights of the British Constitution. At the same Time the Town cannot but express their Ardent Wishes for the recovery of His Health, and the continuance of those publick Services that must long be remembered with Gratitude, and distinguish his Name among the Patriots of America ——

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be a Committee to transmit to the Honble. James Otis Esq. an attested Copy of the aforegoing Vote ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants "that the Selectmen may be empowered to make sale of several pieces of unimproved Land in diverse parts of the Town" — was read —whereupon

[248.] Voted, that M^r^. William Whitewell
Thomas Daws Esq.
M^r^. Samuel Downe
M^r^. John Brown
M^r^. Moses Gill
M^r^. Josiah Quincy
M^r^. Robert Pierpont

be a Committee to take the Petition into Consideration; confer with the Petitioners; enquire and search out what vacant Lands belong to the Town — and Report as soon as may be ——

That Article in the Warrant Viz.^t^ — "Whether the Town will give Instructions to the Gentlemen that may be chosen to Represent them in the next General Assembly — was read — whereupon

Voted, that Richard Dana Esq.
M^r^. Josiah Quincy
D^r^. Joseph Warren
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.

be a Committee to Consider of and prepare proper Instructions which they are desired to lay before the Town at the Adjournment.

The Committee who draw up by Order of the Town a Narrative of the late horred Massacre perpetrated by the Soldiery in this Town on the 5th of March last; presented an Appendix to said Narrative, which having been read and considered — Voted, that

the Same be accepted, and that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to said Committee for their strict adherance to the design of the Town in their appointment; and for their perfecting the Business in so correct and masterly a manner ——

The Committee appointed to consider of the Petition [**249.**] Of Mr. Jacob Emmons praying, "that the Town would make him satisfaction for the damage he has or may sustain by the taking away of his Lands in Paddys Alley for the enlarging of a Street"; Reported verbally, "That in their Opinion Mr. Emmons the Petitioner had not pursued the steps of the Law, for the obtaining a compensation for the Land, taken from him by a Committee of the Justices and Selectmen who laid out or enlarged the Passage Way called Paddys Alley; that therefore the granting the Prayer of his Petition would be attended with difficulties, particularly by opening a Door for other Persons to apply to the Town who are under like Circumstances" — whereupon it was motioned that Mr. Emmons have leave to withdraw his Petition, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Lovell, for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. John Proctor for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Qur.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter

[**250.**] Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quartr.

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter

Voted, that a further Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the Service of the Town the ensuing Year, the

same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street, the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that a further Sum of Twenty five Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Carter as an encouragement for him to exert himself in the Service of the Town the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allow'd & paid to such Person as the Selectmen shall Appoint an Assistant for the Master of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

[251.] Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston Master of the Writing School at the North End for providing an Assistant for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday May 15th. — 3. O'Clock P: M:

Tuesday May 15: 3. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Towa Meeting Assembled May 15: 1770 ——

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 8th. Day of May last desiring the Selectmen to Visit the several public Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they should think proper, and to Report thereon ——

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that Service on Wednesday the 5th Day of July last accompanied by the following Gentlemen vizt. ——

The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq.
Thomas Hubbard
William Brattle Esq.
Harrison Grey Esq.
John Erving Esq.
Thomas Flucker Esq.

[252.] The Honble. James Pitts Esq.
James Otis Esq.
The Representatives of the Town
The Overseers of the Poor ——
The Revd. Mr. Samuel Checkley

Mr. Samuel Mather
Mather Byles . . . . D: D:
Andrew Eliot . . . . D: D:
Samuel Cooper . . . D: D:
Mr. Treat ——
Mr. Penuil Bowen
Mr. Simeon Howard
Mr. John Lothrop
Mr. John Walley
Mr. Treasurer Jeffries
William Sheaff Esq.
Mr. Francis Johonnot.
Mr. Caleb Blanchard.
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton.
Mr. Robert Williams.
Capt. Solomon Davis.
Mr. James Ivers.
Capt. Job Prince.
Mr. Samuel Procter.
Byfield Lyde Esq.
Isaac Smith Esq.
Ezekial Goldthwait Esq.
Commodore Hood
Mr. Samuel Swift.
Mr. John Adams.
Richard Dana Esq.
Collo. Thomas Marshall.
Majr. Cunningham.
[253.] Capt. Josiah Waters.
Mr. Edward Carnes.
Mr. Robert Jenkins.
Mr. Ebenezer Storer.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.

And found the South Grammar School had 142 Scholars; the North Grammar School 60 Scholars; the South Writing School 203 Scholars; the North Writing School 253 Scholars; the Writing School in Queen Street 251 Scholars; all in very good order. —

Voted, that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to visit the publick Schools the Year ensuing, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they may think proper. ——

The Committe Appointed to examine the Accompts of Mr. David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that Service and find the same right cast and well vouched; in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Taxes of £8000,, —— all which amount to the sum of £12331,, 2,, 6¼ including the balance of old Account.

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by Sundry Abatements made the Collectors amounting to £347,, 17,, 9 By Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3113,, ——,, 8¼ of which he has paid £2553,, 16,, 11¼ and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Alms house amounting

to £3330,, 17,, 5 of which he has paid £2162., 15,, 7¼. Also by Sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £220,, 12,, 6½; the whole amounting to £7212,, 8,, 5 ——

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in very particular manner and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of publick Charge, amounting in all as above to £7212,, 8,, 5 [**254.**] As by Account of Town Treasury, in the Town Treasurers Books balance whereof being £5118,, 14,, 1¼ is carried to Credit of new Account. ——

Which Report and Account being read, Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted ——

Voted, that the Sum of Four thousand Pounds be Raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for Relief of the Poor and defreying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the Year ensuing ——

The Committee appointed on the 8th. Instant to prepare Instructions for our Representatives, Reported the following Draft which being read and considered, was accepted by the Town Nemine Contradicente; And it was ordered, that the said Report be published in the several News Papers.

To the Honble. James Bowdoin Esq. & Thomas Cushing Esq. Mr. Samuel Adams and the Honble. John Hancock cock Esq. ——

Gentlemen ——

The Town of Boston by their late choice of you to Represent them in the ensuing General Court, have given strong proof of their confidence in your abilities and integrity. For no period since the perilous times of our venerable Fathers has worn a more gloomy and melancholy aspect. Unwarrantable and arbitrary exactions made upon the people — trade expiring, grievances murmurs discontents convulzing every part of the British Empire, forbode a day of tryal, in which under God nothing but strict virtue and inflexible fortitude can save us, from a rapacious and miserable distruction. A series of occurrances, many recent events, and especially the late Journals [**255.**] Of the House of Lords afford great reason to believe, that a Deep laid & desperate plan of Imperial despotism has been laid, and partly executed, for the extinction of all civil liberty; ——— and from a gradual sapping the grand foundation from a subtle undermining the main pillars, breaking the strong bulwarks destroying the principal ramparts and battlements, the august and once revered, fortress of english freedom — the admirable work of ages, — the BRITISH CONSTITUTION seems fast tottering into fatal & inevitable ruin. The dreadful catastrophe threatens universal havock, and presents an awful warning to hazard all if peradventure, we in these distant confines of the Earth may prevent being totally overwhelm'd and buried under the ruins of our most established rights. For many Years past we have with sorrow beheld the approaching conflict; various have been the causes, which pressed on this decisive period, and everything now conspires to prompt a full exertion of our utmost vigilance wisdom and firmness; — and as ye. exigencies of the

times require, not only the refined abilities of true policy; but the more martial virtues; conduct valor and intrepidity; So Gentlemen in giving you our suffrages, at this Election, we have devolved upon you a most important trust; to discharge which we doubt not you will summon up the whole united faculties of mind and body. ——

We decline Gentlemen a minute detail of many momentous concernments, relative to which it is believed no Instructions need be given; but we shall express our thoughts on such matters as we suppose you will choose to have our explicit sentiments. ——

A Grievance which will early present itself in the ensuing Sessions (and to redress which you are to take all proper and spirited methods) is that of holding the General Court at Harvard College, not only against antient usage and established law, but also against the wellfare of that Seminary of learning, the happy advancement of which, this Province ever had and still have so much at heart. ——

We would have you Gentlemen particularly Scrutinize into the wise and cautious transactions of our worthy Fathers in 1721. They it should be known, in that year tho not directly called to weigh [**256.**] The high importance of the question, yet, on this very matter, behaved with a political foresight, and segacious circumspection, truly admirable and worthy imitation: The small pox then almost as pestilential as the plague, rendred the Meeting of the General Court in Boston morally impossible; yet so convinced was the Governor of the Province of his own defect of authority to remove the General Assembly out of Town, that when all the Members daring to attend the Court in that infectious season, were assembled in the Council Chamber unable to make a quorum of the lower House they were expressly assured by his Excellency that the proposed adjourning into the Country should not be drawn into President. Accordingly a reliance doubtless being had on such solemn assurance, no objections appear entred on record against the Adjournment, when thro' a providential calamity, a transaction of business in the proper place was become really impracticable. No Proverb is more familiar, than that necessity knows no law; and the Court no doubt on this natural consideration was was immediately adjourned out of this Town. Yet so universally sensible were the people of that duty, and especially the three branches of Legislature, that an act of the whole Court, even when such a fatal emergency had forced the Adjournment, absolutely requisite to legalize and capasitate for their proceedure to publick business: — and accordingly a vote passed the honourable House to that purpose, the same was concurred by his Majestys Council, and approved & formally assented to, by the Commander in Chief: — all which appears on the publick records of the Province. Now we should be glad to be informed, how these proceedings in essence sense and spirit, differ from a full ample and final denunciation of the law establishing the seat of Government.

We are not ignorant that in 1728/9 a controversy was forced on relative to this point. This dispute had its rise, like many of

more modern date, in consequence of ministerial Instructions which to borrow a phrase of the then House "are not pleasant to mention." —(257.) We are not unacquainted that his Majestys Attorney and Solicitor General were at this time consulted relative to our legal seat of Government. We also know that the then Governor (Burnet) treating upon the same subject informed the House of Representatives, that the *King Determined* the point," according to the Attorney General and "Soliciters opinion, that "*the* SOLE *power* of dissolving proroguing and adjourning *the* Gen- "eral Court or Assembly as to time or place is IN HIS MAJESTYS GOV- "ERNOR, and that the reasons against it from the tenth of King "William had no real foundation; *there being no clause in that* "*Act laying any such restraint upon the Governor.*"

Here it should be well observed is not barely a tacit but an express declaration that the sole power of dissolving is "devolved entirely" *upon*, and exclusively vested "*in the Governor*" From hence in our opinion, this consequence unavoidably follows, that no Instructions orders or mandates whatever ought to direct and control *such power solely in the Governor.* For it is not merely absurd in theory, and most mischievous in practise, that an authority incapasitated by distance to Judge of local and other critical circumstances, should have a power to fix such an important movement, but moreover it is palpably contrarient to the plain words of the preceeding determination. We freely own it would have given us more satisfaction to have seen this opinion under the hand of those Lawyers. But we would here Gentlemen direct you carefully to notice and remember, that as we always expect to defend our own rights & libertys so we are unalterably fixed to Judge *for ourselves* of their real existence, agreable to law. Yet as we believe this same opinion is far from being well grounded so we now offer a few comments thereon; for your future consideration. But let it be recorded that we enter upon this task, protesting against the pretended right or power of any Crown Lawyer, or any exterior authority upon Earth to determine limit or ascertain all or any of our constitutional or charteral, natural or civil political or sacred Rights liberties and privileges or immunities. These words there being no clause in the "Act of 10th. of William laying any such *constraints* upon the Governor" contained in the afore cited opinion are we conclude intended to convey that as the Kings *prerogative* to remove the(258.)General Court at pleasure is not by express words taken away so such a power remains inherent in the Crown. We do allow indeed that the Kings Prerogative was once thought "a topic too delicate and sacred to be profaned by the pen of a Subject, that it was ranked among the *arcana imperrii*, and like the misteries of the *bona dea* was not suffered to be pried into by any but such as were initiated into its Service: because perhaps the exertion of the one, like the solemnities of the other would not bear the inspection of a rational & sober enquiry" We also have heard that there hath been a British Potentate who "dared to direct on English Parliament to abstain from dircoursing of matters of state; that even that august assembly ought not to deal to Judge or to meddle with *Majestys Preroga-*

tire Royal" — and James the first with his high notions of the Divinity of regal sway, more than once laid it down in his speeches, that "as it was athesm and blashemy in a Creature to dispute what the Deity might do so it is presumption and sedition in a subject to dispute what a King might do in the height of his powers; Good Christians he adds will be content with Gods will revealed in his word, and good Subjects will rest in the Kings will, revealed in his Law" Surely when such mistical Jargon, such absurd and imfamous rant was thus openly denounced in a Realm famed for understanding, freedom and true magnanimitie nothing except an ineffable contempt of the reigning Monarch diverted that indignant vengeance, which would otherwise have made his illustrious throne to tremble and hurl'd the Royal diadem from his forfeit head.

The Kings prerogative in its largest extent includes only certain rights and privileges which *by law* the King hath as a third power of the Commonwealth intrusted with the execution of *laws already in being*. This prerogative our law pronounces to be *solely governed by the laws of the land;* those being the measure as well of the Kings power as the Subjects obedience. For as the laws assert & bound the Just rights of the King; so they likewise declare & maintain the [259.] Rights and liberties of the people; hence it is adjudged law, that all prerogatives must be for the advantage and good of the people, otherwise such pretended prerogatives are to be allowed by law. Even our Crown Lawyers will inform us "that one of the principal bulwarks of civil liberty, or in other words of the British constitution is the limitation of the Kings prerogative by bounds so certain and notorious, that it is impossible he should ever exceed them, without the consent of the people on the one hand, or without on the other a violation of that original contract, which in all states implicidly and in ours most expressly subsists between the Prince and the Subject — And for a consideration of the extent and the restrictions of the Kings prerogative, this conclusion will evidently follow that the powers which are vested in the Crown by the Laws of England; are necessary for the support of society; and do not retrench any further on our *natural* rights then is expedient for the maintanance of our civil. Sir Henry Finch under Charles the first tho' he lays down the law of prerogative in very strong and emphatical terms, yet qualifies it with a general restriction in regard to the liberties of the people — The King (says he) hath a prerogative in all things that are not injurious to the Subject, *in them all* it must be remembered, that the *Kings prerogative stretcheth* not to the doing of any wrong. And finally the best definition of the *prerogative*, which our law books afford is "that discretionary power of acting for the *public good* where the positive laws are silent and if this discretionary power be abused to the publick detriment, such *prerogative* is exerted in an unconstitutional manner.

We Gentlemen have been thus particular in our instructions on this head, because we apprehend that this point of prerogative thro' great inattention hath been much mistaken; and also because

every *other* matter, set forth in the aforesaid opinion of Mr. Attorney and Soliciter General has been irrefregably confuted by diverse Judicious replys of succeeding houses of Assembly. Now the clear law laid down (to the spirit of which we do order you punctually to adhere) proves beyond a cavil, that if the late removal of our General Court was not against plain provincial law, yet that such removal is not only unwarrantable by the principles of Crown [**260.**] Law, but is directly repugnant to the fundimental institutions even of prerogative law — For will any one be so weak or wicked; nay, will even a Crown lawyer for his stipend or pension have the front publicly to maintain, that the late alteration of the seat of our General Assembly is "for the advantage and good of the people," or "for the necessary support of society," or that this assumed "prerogative stretcheth not to any wrong" "Now if all this and much more, is not maintained, then waving our provincial law relative to the seat of government, we with good authority say, that the holding the General Court, from its antient and proper station, is unwarrantable unconstitutional illegal and oppressive. We have given you Gentlemen our full sentiments touching this important concern, because you ought not to be at any loss how to conduct your self herein conformable to the Judgment of your Constituents, — But had we not here spoken so largely nay had the express letter of the law been less favourable, & were it possible to romack up any absurd obsolete notiou, which might have seemed calculated to propogate slavish doctrines, we should by no means have been influenced to forego our birth rights. For the prime and only reason which originated all laws, but more particularly and expressly the prerogative, was the general emolument of the state, and therefore when any pretended prerogatives do not advance this grand purpose, they have no legal obligation; and when any strictly Just prerogatives are exerted to promote any different design, they also cease to be binding. Indeed was a Soliciter General of Majesty in an express treatise "of the Kings prerogative will teach us" that mankind will not be reasoned out of the feelings of humanity nor will sacrifice their liberty by a scrupulous adherence to those political maxims, which were originally established to preserve it. ——

The despicable situation of our provincial militia you will make the object of your peculiar attention; and as it is [**261.**] apparent From what putred source, this decline of military emulation hath flow'd we press, that such animated steps may be taken as shall speedily remove this Just reproach from the land.— When every method is obstinately pursued to enervate with forreign luxuries, every artifice practised to corrupt, in order to inslave, when we are denyed a free constitutional exercise of our rights as Men and Citizens; when high handed invasions are made on our property, and audacious attempts to intimidate not only from resistance but complaint; surely the constitutional watchmen and centinels of our liberties are asleep upon their stations, or traitors to the main body, if they do not rouse and risque from this insiduous plot. ——

As a laudable and voluntary renunciation of a baneful Com-

merce has naturally occasioned a general stagnation of trade; and as the true riches of a people are numbers and industry we warmly recommend to you such measures as will tend to increase population, incourage industry and promote our own manufactures; and as this is a very pacifick political devise for the defeat of our malicious foes, we presume it may be less obnoxious to the virulent slander of ministerial dependants — but these salutary methods of genuine policy ought never to exclude or supersede the more open, manly, bold and pertenacious exertions for our freedom.

One of the most weighty matters, which attracts our affection, and lies deep in the heart of every honest sensible American, is the firm and lasting union of the Colonies; There is no one point which ought more to engage our affectionate zeal. Our enemies well knowing the consequence of this great acquisition, have bent their whole force to render it abortive. Without the least foundation Jealousies have been assiduously infused, diabolical falsehood forged, idle tales propogated, little discords fomented; and every engine that fraud could invent, and hardy villains manage, has been set to work in order to retard if not utterly overthrow this desirable atainment, but all has not done it. The Eyes of our worthy Brethren thro' the Continent are open — yet as we know the plotting mallice inveteracy & indefatigueable labour of the desperately wicked, we strongly inculcate that you be zealous to keep up a cordial intercourse, with our Sister Colonies; and as our interests are so apparently inseparable, nothing but an intimate [**262.**] Communion is requisite to cement our political and natural attachment ——

We have for a long time beheld with grief and astonishment the unwarrantable practise of ministerial instructions to the Commanders in Chief of this Province; it is high time Gentlemen for this matter to be searched into and remidied. ——

Such an enormous stretch of power, if much longer unchecked, will eventually annihilate the essentials of all civil liberty. It is repugnant to the very first principle of true government (which was alone instituted for the good of the governed) that a remote power not only much disconnected but often different in interests should undertake at pleasure to controul any command in affairs of the last moment for the benefit and relief of the people — a power 3000 transmarine miles distant, not only ignorant of our true wellfare, but if perchance discovered interested to oppose it; not only attempting to oppress, but actually oppressing — that such a power should be allowed, wontonly to proscribe patricians & plebeins, at will to fix the residence of our parliament; to order that parliament when and how to proceed, and where to retire; at one time to forbid the best improvement of our own produce, at another time effectually to force us to purchase forreign merchandize; and again as it were sword in hand to demand our property; and anon to forbid our own disposal of a certain part of it — these are doctrines & political solicisms which may take root and spring up, under the meridian of modern Rome; but we trust in God will not flourish in the soil and climate of British America. We therefore strictly charge you not to grant any supplys to the instru-

ments of government if through their defect or misapplication the grand end for which we support and pay our Rulers are not accomplished. We also recommend to you carefully to enquire into the state of criminal [**263.**] Prosecution in our executive courts; and endeavor to revive the antient method of appointing the Attorney General, agreable to charter; for we believe that such a step will be attended with very salutary consequences, in the advancement of public Justice, the punishment of offenders and the general good order of the Province —

Our choice of you Gentlemen to represent us at this hazardous Juncture is a sufficient evidence of our great dependence on your wise honest and steady conduct — We therefore leave all other matters to your best discretion and Judgment; till we shall see fit to give further instructions — We greatly confide that you will bear in strong remembrance, the hardships and sufferings of our pious fathers, to find out and purchase this remote assylm from ecclesiastical persecution and civil tyranny; that inspired by their glorious example, you will vigorously repel even unto the uttermost the insults and violences of internal and external enemies to our peace. We remind you that the further Nations recede and give way to the gigantick strides of any powerful Despot, the more rapidly will the Fiend advance to spread wide desolation; and then should an attempt be made to stay his ravaging progress — "the dogs of war let loose and hot for blood rush on to waste and havock! — *Obsta principiis* is the maxim to be held in view. It is now no time to halt between two opinions; the demands of fraud, violence and usurpation are unsatiable. It is therefore no season to stand listning to subtle alurements, deceitful cajolings, or formidable threatenings. We therefore enjoin you at all hazards to deport (as we rely your own hearts will stimulate) like the faithful Representatives of a freeborn, awakened and determined people — who being impregnated with the spirit of liberty in conception, and nurtured in principles of freedom from their infancy are resolved to breathe the same celestial ether, till summoned to resign the heavenly flame by that omnipotent God who gave it ——

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed to act upon the list of Jurors ——

[**264.**] The Town brought in their Votes for one Overseer of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

M^r^. Samuel Abbot

was chosen Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 6th. Day of June Anno Domini 1770 ——

Prayer was made by the Rev^{d}. Ebenezer Pemberton.

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting — read.

Joshua Henshaw Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their name to the Inhabitants Assembled to the choice of one Person to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly in their present Sessions and so for the remaining part of the Year in the room of the Honble. James Bowdoin Esq. Elected into his Majestys Council. Accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the [**265.**] choice Of one Representative And then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock ——

The Votes being brought in the number of the same were found to be Five hundred and thirty six, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

John Adams Esq.

was chosen by a great majority . . . . . 418 Votes ——

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that William Phillips Esq. was chosen

The Town being informed soon after that M^{r}. Phillips was not in Boston, withdrew as directed and brought in their Votes for another Moderator, and upon sorting them it appeared that John Ruddock Esq. was chosen, almost unanimously ——

The Town brought in their Votes for one Overseer of the Poor; the choice of M^{r}. Abbot on the 15th. of May last not being apprehended by the Town to be altogether legal as the Inhabitants were not particularly notified of the choice of said Officer before the time of Meeting: Upon sorting of the Votes it appeared that the aforenamed

M^{r}. Samuel Abbot

was chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the remainder of the Year in the room of Thomas Tyler Esq. lately deceased ——

The Town brought in their Votes for one Assessor in the room of M^{r}. William Fairfield lately deceased, and upon sorting them it appeared that

[**266.**] Gyles Harris Esq.

was chosen an Assessor for the remainder of the Year ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, unanimously, that it is the desire of this Town in consideration of the present aspect of Divine Providence towards the British Nation, and these American Colonies; that a Day be set apart for fasting and prayer through this Province; and that the Gentlemen who represent us in General Assembly, communicate our sentiments to their other Brethren of the House ——

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Ruddock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 10th. Day of July Anno Domini 1770. 9 O'Clock A : M :

Warrant for calling the Meeting . . . . . read ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of New Hampshire Connecticut [267.] Rhode Island, which were administred to him by Mr. Justice Avery

Sundry Letters received by Capt. Gardner Master of the Packet taken up by the Town, in answer to those by him to our Friends in England, relative to the horred Massacre on 5th. of March last, were read to the Town ——

The Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "And that such further steps may be taken as shall be Judged necessary, to counteract the designs of those inveterate Enemies among us, who there is reason to think are still continuing their Misrepresentations, and using their Endeavours to increase the present unhappy misunderstanding between Great Britain and the Colonies" — was read and considered whereupon Voted, that

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
John Hancock Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
Mr. William Phillips
Mr. William Mollineux
Dr. Joseph Warren
Mr. Ebenezer Storer
Mr. William Greanleaff

be a Committee to draw up a true state of the Town, and the conduct of the Commissioners since the 5th. of March last; and to Report the same at the Adjournment ——

A Motion made that the printed Narratives of the late horred Massacre, which has been retained by order of the Town in the hands of the Committee; may now be sold by the Printers, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Narrative ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday next the 13th. Instant 3 O'Clock P : M :

[268.] Fryday the 13 July 1770. 3 O'Clock P : M : Town met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed the 10 Inst. to draw up a true state of the Town and the conduct of the Commissioners of the Board of Customs since the 5th. of March last — Reported a draft of a Letter to be sent our friends in England, and the same having been read and considered — Voted, that said draft be accepted, and that the said Committee be desired to transmit fair Copys of said Letter to such Gentlemen in England as they shall think proper ——

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 20 Day of August Anno Domini 1770.

Warrant for calling the Meeting . . . . . read ——

Richard Dana Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Government of New Hampshire Connecticut & Rhode Island, which were Administred to him by Mr. Justice

[269.] The Petition of a number of Inhabitants setting forth, "That the Passage Way leading from the North part of Faneuil Hall Market into Ann Street and Union Street, is so narrow as often times to obstruct the passing of Carts, Trucks and other Carriages thereby endangering the Limbs and Lives of the Inhabitants, and is a public Nuisance, and praying that said Passage Way may be widened and enlarged, either by filling up the South West part of the Town Dock, so far as to render the same convenient for the passage of Carriages &c. or in such other manner as to them may seem meet" — was read, and upon a Motion made & seconded — the Question was put — Whether the Town will proceed to take into Consideration the Subject matter of this Petition as inserted in the Warrant Passed in the Affermative.——

The above Petition having been read and considered — Voted, that the Selectmen be desired and impower'd to fill up the Dock from the South East Corner of the Towns Land to the Warehouse occupied by the Heirs of the late John Fayerweather Esq. on a strait line to the Northwest Corner opposite to Mr. Joseph Tylers Shop (without obstructing the several Drains) for the present accommodation of Faneuil Hall Market, reserving to the Town their right of shutting up said Ways, when they shall Judge it convenient

Voted unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Richard Dana Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[270.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall August 24th, 1770. ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting . . . . . read ——

John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of New Hampshire Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The Venire directed to the Constables of Boston for the choice of Six Grand Jurors and eighteen Petit Jurors for August Court was read ——

The after examination, finding that the Temporary Law for regulating the choice of Jurymen was expired, and having taken

the Opinion of Richard Dana Esq. Council at Law, proceeded to the choice of Jurymen agreable to the Venire; and the following Persons were nominated and chose —— Viz^{t}.

6 Grand Jurors.
M^{r}. Ebenezer Lowell
M^{r}. Joseph Turell
M^{r}. John Cunningham
M^{r}. William Palfrey
M^{r}. Thomas Jackson
Benjamin Austin Esq.
18 Petit Jurors
M^{r}. Thomas Fletcher
M^{r}. Richard Boynton - - - - - excused
M^{r}. Daniel Jones
George Irving Esq.
[271.] M^{r}. Josiah Torrey
M^{r}. Edward Grant
M^{r}. Henry Hill
M^{r}. Nathaniel Barret
M^{r}. George Trott
Thomas Amory Esqr - - - - - - excused
Capt. Fortesque Vernon
M^{r}. Phillip Dumaresque - - - - - excused
Benjamin Faneuil Esq.
M^{r}. Robert Rand
Capt. Solomon Davis
Moses Peck - - - (served within the time)
M^{r}. Joshua Gardner
M^{r}. John Winnitt - - - - - - - excused
M^{r}. Joshua Green - - - - - - -
M^{r}. Samuel Ridgway Junr. - - - - excused
M^{r}. William Lowder
M^{r}. William Frobisher
Ezekiel Lewis Esq. - (served within the time)
M^{r}. Charles Coffin
M^{r}. Neal McIntyre

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for his services ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[272.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 20th. of September Annoqui Domini 1770

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - - read ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Government of New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island ——

The Petition of diverse of the Freeholders representing "that the Town have at their late Meeting Voted to fill up part of the Town Dock in order to enlarge the Passage Way, and that they apprehend it will be attended with much greater Expence to the Town than if the same was wholly filled up, therefore praying that the minds of the Inhabitants may be taken upon the matter, that they may act upon the same as they may think meet" — was read, — after debate had thereon — Voted, that —

John Ruddock Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
John Scollay Esq.

be a committee to take the Petition into Consideration enquire into the Titles to the Dock, and make Report as soon as may be

The Proposal of a number of the Inhabitants for forming a Society in order to promote Arts, Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce in this Province" — was read and upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that

The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
[273.] The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Mr. Thomas Boylston
John Adams Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Mr. William Dennie

be a Committee to take the Proposal into Consideration, and Report as soon as may be ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Saturday the 29th. Instant 3 O'Clock P: M:

Satturday the 29th. Day of September 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting being out of Town, the Inhabitants Assembled proceeded to the choice of another, when it appeared that John Ruddock Esq. was chosen Moderator, during the necessary absence of John Hancock Esq ——

A Venire for the choice of Six Persons to Serve as Jurymen at the Infereior Court in October next was read — and the Town having proceeded to the choice of Jurymen, according to the standing Law of this Province, the Temporary Law for the regulating the choice of Petit Jurymen being expired ——

Mr. William Daws
Mr. William Phillips
Mr. Richard Salter
Mr. Andrew Boardman
Mr. John Scott
Mr. Thomas Drown

were the Persons chose, and the Venire was then return'd to Constable Wells

[274.] The Committee appointed to Consider the Petition of a number of Inhabitants relative to filling up the Town Dock, and also to enquire into the Titles of the Abutters &c. having informed

the Town that they were not ready to make Report thereon — It was the desire of the Town that they would make Report at the Adjournment

The Committee relative to the proposal of a number of the Inhabitants for forming a Society in order to promote Arts, Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce in this Province, not being present their Report which had been lodged with the Town Clerk, was not read, but the consideration thereof referred to the Adjournment

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday next, being the 8th. Instant 10 O'Clock Before Noon ——

Monday October 8. 10. O'Clock A: M: Met according to Adjournment, Mr. Hancock in the Chair ——

John Ruddock Esq. Chairman of the Committee to Consider the Petition of a number of the Inhabitants relative to filling up the Dock &c. acquainted the Town that said Committee were not then able to Report as fully as they intended; and therefore desired leave to Report at the Adjournment which was accordingly granted.

Mr. Ruddock then motioned that as the business of the Adjournment was of considerable importance to the Inhabitants; the Selectmen might be directed to issue timely Notifications of the Adjournment of this Meeting and the Business that will then come before the Town, that so there may be a punctual and general attendance of the Inhabitants — And the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative ——

[275.] Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday next being the 15. of October inst. 10. O'Clock Before Noon ——

Met according to Adjournment this 15 Day of October 1770. 10 O'Clock A: M:

The Committee appointed by the Town "to enquire into the Titles of the Abutters, on the Town Dock, and to determine whether the same shall be filled up agreable to the prayer of a Petition for that purpose" attended this Meeting and informed the Town that they were only ready to make a partial Report — whereupon it was moved, that the Question be put — "Whether the Report of the Committee should be received in so thin a Meeting of the Inhabitants, — and the Question

Voted, that the Committee appointed to Consider of the Proposal of a number of the Inhabitants for forming a Society to promote Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce in this Province as also the Committee appointed on the Petition of a number of the Inhabitants relative to filling up the Dock &c. be desired to make their Several Reports at the next General Town Meeting ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. Moderator of this Meeting for his Services as Moderator ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[276.] Prayer was made by the Rev^{d}. M^{r}. Mather ——
Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - - read ——
Sundry Laws enjoin'd to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read ——
The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by an Act of this Province ——
M^{r}. William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire & Rhode Island, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which Oaths were Administred to him by M^{r}. Justice Dana ——
The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen and the Votes being brought in and sorted, it appeared that

The Honble. Joshua Henshaw Esq. - - -(excused)
Coll^{o}. Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
M^{r}. Henderson Inches
M^{r}. Jonathan Mason

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing ——
see Page

[277.] The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barret Esq.
The Honble. Royal Tyler Esq.
M^{r}. Benjamin Dolbear
M^{r}. William Whitwell
M^{r}. William Greanleaff
William White Esq.
M^{r}. Joseph Waldo - - - - - - - - - - (excused)
John Leveret Esq.
John Gore Esq.
Capt. Samuel Partridge
M^{r}. Samuel Whitwell
M^{r}. Samuel Abbot

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing ——
see Page
Upon a Motion made Voted, that 4 O'Clock Afternoon be assign'd for the choice of a County Register, and a County Treasurer —
The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Isaac Smith Esq.
Coll^{o}. Thomas Marshall Esq.
M^{r}. David Jeffries.
M^{r}. Ebenezer Storer
Onesip^{s}. Tileston Esq.

John Gore Esq.
Newman Grenough Esq.
Capt. Martin Gay
Mr. Daniel Waldo
Mr. Caleb Davis
Mr. John White
Mr. Daniel Parker ——

[278.] Were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards and upon sorting them it appeared, that ——

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Grenough Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
Mr. John Mico Wendell.
Coll°. Thomas Marshall Esq.
Mr. Joseph Tyler
Capt. Adino Paddock
Mr. James Richardson
Capt. Benjamin Waldo —
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams —
Thomas Daws Esq. —
Mr. Alexander Hill —
Francis Shaw Esq.

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer and upon sorting them it appeared, that Mr. David Jeffries was chosen and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty which Oaths were Administred to him by Mr. Justice ———

Messrs. Richard Palms
Joseph Dommet
William Fowle
William Smith —

[279.] Moses Grant
Ebenezer Bridgham
Frederick William Geer
Josiah Eliot
William Jones —
John Hunt Tertius
John Nazro
William Cazneau

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put — Whether Constables & Collectors of Taxes shall be chose sepperate — Passed in the affirmative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be Remitted out of the Ten Pounds Fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving ——

Voted, that the Sum of Twelve Pence on the pound, be and

hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect ; provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the 10th. Day of August 1772 Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums as they shall have so paid into said Treasuries on or before the 20th. Day of December 1772 — and Four Pence upon the pound upon the remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to Collect provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the second Monday in March 1773 This Premium as above expressed appears to be Just and equitable, and an ample Allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with diligence and fidelity ; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of [280.] The Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Messrs. Sampson Salter
Edward Hollyday
Abraham Savage
Benjamin Henderson

were chose into that Office ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Mr. John Kneeland
Mr. Benjamin Church
Belcher Noyes Esq.
Mr. Daniel Pecker
Mr. Jonathan Brown
Moses Deshon Esq.
Gyles Harris Esq.

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. William Nichols
Andrew Symms
Clement Collins
Henry Allen
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
John Skillins
Richard Walker
John Champney
John Bulfinch
[281.] Abraham Howard
Joseph Butler
Joseph Eyres
Thomas Bayley
Andrew Townsend
Joseph Ballard
John Holland

John Rogers
Edmund Ranger
Thomas Uran
Elisha Homes
Obediah Low
Benjamin Page

were chose Surveyers of Boards for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. John Joy
Obediah Low
Samuel Dyer
John Dyer
William Crafts

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing——

Messrs. Samuel Bangs
Joseph Clark—
Daniel Parks
Benjamin Bass
Capt. Adino Paddock - - - (excused)
Thomas Noland

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing——

Messrs. William Daws Jun.
Thomas Edes——

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing——

[282.] Messrs. Peter Cotta
Manesseh Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Harskins
David Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Job Wheelright
Joshua Pico—
Benjamin Salt
Paul Baxter—
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White
Edward Cowell
Edward Potter
Peter Ellis
Timothy Pease
Nathaniel Waterman
Jacob Williams
Samuel Bernard—
John Newell
Joseph Phillips
Henry Lucas
Caleb Hayden

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing——

Messrs. David Simins
Thomas Curtis

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing——

Mr. Thomas Curtis
was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing——

[283.] Mr. John Gray
was chosen Surveyer of Hemp for the Year ensuing——

Upon a Motion made and seconded, it was Voted, that the Scavingers be chose out of their respective Wards, one to each Ward

	Wards.
Messrs. John R. Sigorney - - - - - - - - -	No. 1
After Stoddard - - - - - - - - - -	2
Edward Foster- - - - - - - - - - -	3
Freeman Pulsifer - - - - - - - - - -	4
John Merrit - - - - - - - - - - -	5
Thomas Russell - - - - - - - - - -	6
Joseph Ridgaway - - - - - - - - - -	7
William Perkins - - - - - - - - - -	8
Robert Williams - - - - - - - - - -	9
Elisha Eaton - - - - - - - - - - -	10
John Martin - - - - - - - - - - -	11
Benjamin Wheeler - - - - - - - - - -	12

were chose Scavingers for the Year ensuing——
John Tuder Esq.
Mr. John Lucas
were chose Suveyers of Wheat for the Year ensuing——
Capt. Martin Gay
Mr. John Skinner
were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing——

Voted that the Selectmen be desired to enforce the duty of Scavingers upon such as have been chose into that Office; and if they should find any defects in the Laws relating to those Officers, that they Report the same to the Town, that they may act thereon as they shall Judge proper.

[284.] Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

The Selectmen Reported on the Accompt of Mr. Benjamin Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past which Accompt as entred on his Books, (and on file in the Town Clerks Office, was read — whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted) and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 70 bushels of Indian Meal and 242 bushells of Rye Meal amounting to £56 ,, 12 ,, 10 and also for the Sum of £154 ,, 6 ,, 7½ Cash now in his hands, exclusive of the Sum of £32 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary and attendance as charged in his Accompt, which is hereby allowed him ——
Coll°. Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Leveret Esq.
Mr. John Sweetser.
were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impowered to give all needful direction to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require; and the said Committe are desired and directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be ground in the New Mills near the Mill Bridge now occupied by Mr. George Leonard ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables the Persons chose into that Office and sworn are ——

Messrs. Augustus Hail
Elias Dupee
[285.] George Thomas
Francis Salmon
Peter Barbour
Stephen Symms
Hezekial Usher
John Wells
John Bennet
Thomas Chapman
Samuel Greanleaff
Edward Blake ——

The Petition of a large number of the Inhabitants Setting forth "that on account of the many fatal Accidents that happen by the explosion of Magazines of Powder in large and populous Citys, they apprehend their lives and properties in common with the rest of their Fellow Citizens; to be very insecure from the Powder house being situated where it now is, and therefore praying the Town to take the matter into Consideration and make such Application as they shall think effectual for its removal" was read and considered — whereupon the Question was put — Whether the Town will make Application for the removal of the Powder-house out of this Town to a place of greater safety — Passed in the Affermative.

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to prepare a Petition to the General Court praying the removal of the Powder House out of this Town, and to Report at the Adjournment ———

Votes for a County Register brought in and sealed up by Constable Dupee to whose care they are delivered to be returned to the Court of Sessions ——

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in & sealed [286.] up Constable Dupee to whose care they are delivered to be returned to the Court of Sessions ——

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants "praying that the Watch may be replaced at or near the Fortification for reasons expressed in said Petition ——

Voted, that Benjamin Kent Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
John Hill Esq.
Belcher Noyes Esq.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.
be a Committee to take this Petition into Consideration & Report at the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday next 10. O'Clock before Noon.

Tuesday the 12. Day of March, 10 O'Clock Before Noon, met according to Adjournment ——

The Moderator having read to the Town a Letter from the

Honble. Joshua Henshaw Esq. desiring that upon account of his ill state of health he might be excused from serving as a Selectmen, into which Office he had been again chosen — he was accordingly excused — And upon Motion

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. Joshua Henshaw Esq. for his faithful services as a Selectman in Years past ——

[287.] The Town proceeded to the choice of one Selectman in the room of Joshua Henshaw Esq. who had resigned, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that ——

M^r. Ebenezer Storer

was chosen a Selectman for the Year ensuing ——

The Selectmen

were chose Surveyers of High ways for the Year ensuing ——

Voted, that Nicholas Boylston Esq.
Thomas Gray Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
M^r. John Pitts ——
Thomas Daws Esq.

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoin'd to inspect every particular Accompt of the Moneys expended for the use of the Almshouse, they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accompts to allow such of the Overseers as shall have advanced Moneys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the time so advanced till they shall have Audited said Accompts: and they are also desired to Report from time to time a state of a Treasury respecting the Debts & Credits and on many matters that they may think proper ——

The Petition of Jonathan Payson Esq. setting forth "that he has allowing for what is coming to him as his premium of Collecting discharged the whole of what was due to the Town Province & County Treasurers to the Sum of One hundred & twenty Pounds ten Shillings and eight Pence half Penny; and praying that the same may be Remitted him, the whole of which having been in the course of sixteen Years, by means of [288.] some of the Persons assessed going beyond Sea or into other Towns and Provinces, becoming Bankrupts or dying Insolvent as by a List to be offered will appear" — was read, and after debate had thereon ——

Voted, that Jonathan Williams Esq.
M^r. Alexander Hill
Meletiah Bourn Esq.
M^r. Samuel Austin
Ezekial Goldthwait Esq.

be a Committee to take the Petition into consideration, as also to examine the List M^r. Payson has exhibited to the Town of his Outstanding Debts — and to Report at the Adjournment ——

The Petition of M^r. John Green representing, "that on t^e Evening of the 5. of March last being on his lawful Business Long Lane and hearing the cry of Fire he run up Leverets and just as he turned Messrs. Amorys Corner, the Soldie

at which time one of the Balls enterd his Thigh, whereby he was wounded in a dangerous manner and praying that the Town would discharge his Surgeons Bill for reasons therein given" — read and debate had thereon whereupon it was Voted, that

Coll°. Thomas Marshall Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Mr. Peter Boyer

be a Committee to take this Petition into Consideration and make Report at the Adjournment. ——

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed, to set for Abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Wednesday, till the last Wednesday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be [289.] Allowed to set the two last weeks in November for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying in the above limitted time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which time they are also allowed & impowered to Abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April and the last Day of November ——

A Letter from that celebrated Patriot, Dr. Lucas of Ireland, owning the Receipt of one transmitted him by a Committee of this Town together with the Pamphlet relative to the horred Massacre in Boston March 5. 1770 — was read and attended to with the highest satisfaction

Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M: ——

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

Voted, that the Consideration of Schoolmasters Salarys, and all other Salarys and Grants be referred over to next May Meeting

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is impowered and directed to borrow on Interest a Sum not exceeding Three Hundred Pounds lawful Money, for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Alms-house.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and impowered to give his Negotiable Notes upon Interest to such of the Overseers of the Poor as are in advance for the relief of the Town, for such Sums as appear to be due to them respectively, upon the Auditing of their Acco^{t} to ye present Month.

[290.] Dr. Lucas's Letter was again read and upon a Motion Voted, that The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq.

Dr. Joseph Warren
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to return a respectful answer to this Letter ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are directed and impowered to take effectual care that the Common is inclosed and kept inclosed; And also to bring such Actions as they may think necessary to prevent or remove any Incumbrances upon the Towns Lands, and for obtaining damages for the same — also

Voted, that the Selectmen be directed to publish the above Vote in all the News Papers with a suitable preamble ——

That Article in the Warrant, Viz^{t} — "Whether the Town will determine upon some suitable Method to perpetuate the memory of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770 — by a Party of Soldiers of the 29. Regiment" — and after debate had thereon ——

Voted, that The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
M^{r}. Samuel Adams
D^{r}. Benjamin Church
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
D^{r}. Joseph Warren
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be a Committee to take under Consideration this Article in the [**291**.] Warrant, and Report at the Adjournment ——

That Article in the Warrant — Viz.^{t} — "That some steps may be taken to vindicate the Character of the Inhabitants grosly injured by some partial and false publications relative to the tryals of Capt. Preston &^{c}" — was read — and after debate had thereon

Voted, that M^{r}. William Cooper ——
John Ruddock Esq.
D^{r}. Thomas Young
M^{r}. William Greanleaff
M^{r}. John Sweetser ——

be a Committee to take this Article into Consideration and Report as soon as may be ——

That Article in the Warrant, Viz. — "To consider what Measures are proper for procuring some suitable Person or Persons to undertake the sweeping of Chimnies, whereby the Town will be better secured from Fires" — was read — whereupon ——

Voted, that Thomas Daws Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.
M^{r}. Samuel Austin ——

be a Committee to take this Article into Consideration, and Report at the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday the 19. of March Instant 9. O'Clock Before Noon ——

Tuesday March 19. Met according to Adjournment.

M^{r}. Joseph Waldo informed the Town that he was intending a Voyage to England and therefore declined serving in the Office of an [**292.**] Overseer to which he had been chosen — M^{r}. Waldo was accordingly excused — and upon a Motion made Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be given to the said M^{r}. Waldo for his faithful Services as an Overseer of the Poor in Years past ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Capt. William Homes Esq. for his faithful services as a Fire Ward a number of Years past

The Committee chosen to take into Consideration the Petition of Jonathan Payson Esq. not being able to Report thereon were desired to do it next May Meeting ——

The Town brought in their Votes for an Overseer of the Poor in the room of Mr. Joseph Waldo who has resigned and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Mr. Daniel Waldo

was chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing ——

see Page

The Committee appointed to Consider of some Suitable Method to perpetuate the memory of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770. by a Party of Soldiers of the 29th Regiment — Reported as their Opinion — "That for the present the Town make choice of a proper Person to deliver an Oration at such Time as may be Judged most convenient to commemorate the barbarous murder of five of our Fellow Citizens on that fatal Day, and to impress upon our minds the ruinous tendency of standing Armies in Free Cities, and the necessity of such noble exertions in all future times, as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the designs of the Conspirators against the public Liberty may be still frustrated — And the Committee in order to compleat the Plan of some standing Monument of [293.] Military Tyrany begg'd to be indulged with further time" — which Report being accepted it was Voted unanimously that the Town will now come to the choice of an Orator agreable to the Report of their Committee ——

Mr. Samuel Hunt and James Lovel were then nominated in order for the Town to make choice of one of them to be the Orator on this Occasion ——

The Inhabitants as directed then withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. James Lovel

was unanimously chosen ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr. Benjamin Church
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
Samuel Swift Esq.

were appointed a Committee to wait upon Mr. James Lovel, and acquaint him that the Town have unanimously made choice of him to deliver an Oration in Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 2d. of April next 10. O'Clock Before Noon ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that ——

The Honble. James Pitts Esq.
The Honble. Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Collo. Joseph Jackson Esq.
Majr. John Ruddock Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
[294.] Mr. Jonathan Mason
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

Mr. Samuel Payne
Benjamin Kent Esq.
John Barrett Esq.

A Committee appointed by the Town the 13: of June 1769 to prosecute in the Law the Proprietors of the Grist Mills at the North part of Boston, be and hereby are directed to discontinue the Suit they had commenced by Order of the Town —— Also Voted, that the above Committee be directed to renew the Boundaries of the Towns Grants to the Proprietors of the Grist Mills in Boston by Erecting some permanent Monuments, and to Report at May Meeting ——

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Mr. John Green Reported, as their Opinion — "That there be paid out of the Town Treasury into the hands of the Petitioner the Sum of Twelve Pounds fifteen Shillings for the purpose of discharging the Surgeons Bill mentioned in the Petition — The Committee also Reported — That in Consideration of the present distressed Circumstances of the Petitioner occasioned by the misfortune set forth in his Petition, the Expence he was necessarily put to by means thereof, and his inability to work at his trade or do anything for the support of his numerous Family for near Seven Months, the further Sum of Eighteen Pounds be paid to him out of the Town Treasury; and that the Overseers of the Poor give him an Order on the Treasurer for the aforesaid sum," — which Report being read and considered, the Question was put, "Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

Committee to wait upon Mr. Lovel reported [295.] That they had waited upon him accordingly, and received for answer that he should comply with the Vote of the Town desiring him to pronounce an Oration on the 2d. of April next ——

The Committee appointed on the 12th. Instant to Consider the request of a number of Persons that some steps may be taken to vindicate the Character of the Town Inhabitants, grosly injured by some partial and false Publications relative to the Tryals of Capt. Preston &c. — Report ——

"That having made such enquiries and examinations as the short time allowed them would permit, it plainly appears to your Committee that the Character of the Inhabitants has been grosly injured in a Pamphlet entitled a Narrative of the Tryals &c. said to be printed by permission of the Honble. Court, and also in several anonimous publications: This Pamphlet can be considered as no other than a mutilated and partial Account of the tryal of the Soldiers, some of the Evidences produced in Court being left out, as also what was offered in behalf of the Crown by Mr. Pain, while some Affidavits are found there which were not taken in Court in the course of these tryals: As to the Anonimous Publications they are evidently intended to mislead the People of the Colonies and the Mother Country into the apprehension that the Inhabitants of this Town were the Aggressors on the bloody Evening of the 5th. of March; that a plan had been formed to attack the Soldiery, and drive them from Boston *previous* to the

horred Massacre; that the Troops were accordingly *first* attacked by the Inhabitants, and the Party of Soldiers near the Custom House put into such iminent hazard of their lives as to Justify their firing upon the People, and the Slaughter that ensued; that the bringing M^r. Manwarren a Tide Water upon tryal for a supposed firing from the Custom House was without the least colour of Evidence to Justify it and a malicious proceedure, wholly calculated to bring disgrace upon the Commissioners of the Customs and their under Officers; and that consequently the Pamphlet entitled a Narrative of the horred [**296.**] Massacre &c. which was transmitted by order of the Town to a number of Lords and Gentlemen in Great Britain & Ireland was an imperfect erroneous account of the transactions on that dreadful Night, and quite undeserving the least share of Credit. ——

Your Committee do not presume to give their Opinion whether these Matters may with propriety be taken up by the Town as no Town can be Justly chargeable with the Crimes real or supposed of a few of its Inhabitants — but if the Town should apprehend that the reputation and interest of the Inhabitants in general is in danger of eventually suffering on this occasion, and that it would not well become them to see even the Characters of a few Townsmen unjustly impeach'd and dishonored when they have it so much in their power to do them Justice: — Your Committee would then beg leave to recommend the appointment of another Committee who shall be directed to prepare and draw up a true and full account of those Tryals and what preceeded them, with Just and proper remarks thereon and on the misrepresentations contained in the several publications; which may serve as an Appendix to the Pamphlet before published by the Town; in this Report the manner of proceedure on one side and the other in the choice of Jurors and Talesmen, — the Sentiments & prejudices which some of them discovered before the tryal; the Characters of several of the Witnesses, the discoveries which were offered to be made either in Court or to the Council on the part of the Crown which were not attended to; the Witnesses that were abroad or dead whose Affidavits were printed in the Towns Pamphlet, and other Evidences which were offered to the Council but not taken; the Lines drawn and stipulations made by the Council on each side previous to entring upon Action which any ways effected the Issue; and the political manoevers made by the Managers in the course [**297.**] of those Tryals shall be precisely stated. Your Committee are further of Opinion that said Committee in order to produce a clear and full vindication of the Town should be directed to apply unto two or more Majestrates, that the necessary affidavits may be taken in perpetuam, also to the several Gentlemen of the Law who were concerned or present at those Tryals, and even to the Honble. Judges themselves, that so nothing may be asserted but can be well supported by good Evidences and Authority; when we doubt not your Committee will be able to make it manifest to the World; that the Executions of the Military on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770. were not more

unprecedented and barbarous than they were unnecessary and wanton — All which is submitted ——

William Cooper, pr. Order ——

The above Report having been read, and debate had thereon it was Voted, that the same be so far accepted as that ——

M^r. William Cooper
John Ruddock Esq.
D^r. Thomas Young
M^r. William Greenleaff
M^r. John Sweetser
D^r. Benjamin Church
D^r. Joseph Warren
M^r. Samuel Adams
The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq.

be a Committee to consider the facts therein mentioned, and ascertain them by such Evidence as can be had, and to make such Observations and Remarks thereon as they shall think pertinent, and lay the same before the Town as soon as may be ——

Voted, that D^r. Charles Chancey be desired to open the Meeting on which the Oration is to be delivered by M^r. Lovel, with Prayer.

The Honourable John Hancock Esq. having generously [298.] Offered to put the Orators Desk in Mourning on the Day the Oration relative to the late Massacre is to be pronounced — The Town gratefully accepted of the offer ——

The Committee appointed "to consider what measures are proper for procuring some suitable Person or Persons to undertake the sweeping of Chimnies &c" are desired to Report at May Meeting ——

The Committee appointed to wait on M^r. Lovel, are desired to wait upon the Rev^d. D^r. Chauncey, and acquaint him, that it is the desire of the Town that he would pray with them at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

The Committee appointed to Consider of the Petition of a number of Inhabitants that the Watch may be replaced at or near the Fortification for Reasons expressed in the said Petition — Reported — That they had pursuant to their appointment considered the Petition relative to the Watch, and view'd the place where the new Southern Watch-house stands, and the Land at & adjoining to the Fortification on each side of the Street there; & that they are fully of Opinion that a good strong Watch be placed and kept at or near the said Fortification as soon as may be but that the aforesaid Watch-house will for the present suffice as well or better than one built any where else within the Old Gate-way of the said Fortification and the Town will thereby save a considerable Expence ——

The above Report having been considered the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted—Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday the second of April 10. O'Clock A: M——

[299.] Tuesday the 2^d. Day of April 10. O'Clock Before Noon Met according to Adjourment ——

A Venire for the choice of Six Persons to serve as Jury Men for April Court — was read — and the following Persons were drawn as Jurymen in Town Meeting — Vizt. ——

Messrs. Ephraim Copeland
Jacob Homer
David Spear
Edward Cowell
Sutton Byles
Timothy White

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Ebenezer Storer ——
Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr. Benjamin Church ——
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March next to perpetuate the memory of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770 — by a party of Soldiers of the 29. Regiment; and to impress upon our minds, the ruinous tendency of standing Armies being placed in free and populous Cities; and the necessity of such noble Exertions in all future times as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the Conspirators against the Publick Liberty may be still frustrated —

The Hall not being capacious enough to receive the Inhabitants it was moved that the Meeting be Adjourned to the Old South Church; and [**300.**] the Meeting was accordingly Adjourned to said Church ——

The Inhabitants being met agreable to Adjournment at the Old South Church The Revd. Dr. Chauncey in conformity to the Vote of the Town, made a Prayer very suitable to the occasion.

An Oration to commemorate the horred Massacre of the 5 of March 1770 was delivered by Mr. James Lovel to a crowed Assembly; agreable to a Vote of the Town ——

Upon a Motion made it was Voted, unanimously that ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. Moderator
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
Dr. Benjamin Church
Richard Dana Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to return the Thanks of this Town to Mr. James Lovel for the Oration delivered by him at their request, in commemoration of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770 — by a Party of Soldiers of the 29 Regiment; and to desire a Copy thereof for the Press ——

Voted unanimously that all Matters & Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the General Town

Meeting in May next to be then considered of and acted upon ——

Voted, Unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved ——

[**301.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the seventh Day of May Anno Domini 1771 ——

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Bowen ——

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting read

Sundry Laws enjoin'd read at this Meeting were accordingly read ——

Joseph Jackson Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at —— upon Wednesday the 29. Day of May currant and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected. Accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Vote will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock ——

The Votes being brought in the Number of the Same were found to be Four hundred and ten, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chose — Viz^t.

	Votes.
The Honble James Otis Esq. - - - - - - -	399
The Honble Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - -	410
The Honble John Hancock Esq. - - - - - -	410
Mr Samuel Adams - - - - - - - - - -	403

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, and bring [**302.**] In their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant. Accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, and brought in their Votes and upon sorting them it appeared that the Honble James Otis Esq. was chosen ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M: ——

Three O'Clock P: M: Met According to adjournment.

The Petition of M^r. Jacob Emmons "that an adequate Allowance may be made him for the Lands taken from them by his Majestys Justices of the Peace and Selectmen of the Town of Boston, in order to make a new Street or widen the same leading from Ann Street to Middle Street, or that he may be otherwise relieved by the Town, in such manner as to Justice & equity appertains:" — was read and large debate had thereon — then the Question was put — Whether the Petition shall be sustained — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that D^r. Thomas Young
M^r. William Cooper

Mr. Ezekiel Price
Mr. Samuel Austin
Mr. William Mollineux

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to Consider the Petition of Mr. Jacob Emmons and Report at the Adjournment what they think proper to be done thereon ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. "Whether the Town will give Instructions to the Gentlemen that may be chose to [**303.**] Represent them in the next General Assembly" — was read and Considered; and the Question then put — Whether the Town will now Instruct their Representatives — Passed in the Negative ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Grant of Moneys for the Relief of the Poor and defreying other necessary Charges, be referred over to the Adjournment — also ——

Voted, that the Consideration of the Sums to be allowed the Schoolmasters &c be referred over to the Adjournment ——

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 7, 1771 ——

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town at their Annual Meeting the 8: Day of May last, desiring the Selectmen to visit the several publick Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they should think proper and to Report thereon ——

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Wednesday the 4: Day of July last accompanied by the following Gentlemen — Vizt.

His Honour the Lieuet. Governor ——
The Honble. John Erving Esq.
James Bowdoin Esq.
Thomas Hubbard Esq.
Thomas Hubbard Esq.
Harrison Gray Esq.
Royal Tyler Esq.
James Pitts Esq.
John Temple Esq.
Thomas Cushing Esq.
Andrew Oliver Esq.

[**304.**] The Representatives of the Town
The Overseers of the Poor
The Revd. Charles Chauncy - D: D:
Mather Byles - - - D: D:
Andrew Eliot - - - D: D:
Ebenezer Pemberton - D: D:
Samuel Cooper - - - D: D:
Samuel Mather
Peneuil Bowen
Simeon Howard
John Morehead
Andrew Croswell
Samuel Stillman
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. Edward Payne

John Scollay Esq.
Mr. Rufus Green
Capt. John Bradford
Mr. Timothy Fitch
Onesiphorus Tileston Esq.
Capt. Benjamin Eustis
Nathaniel Baleston Esq.
Mr Thomas Greenough
Mr. Joshua Blanchard
Benjamin Austin Esq.
Capt. John Phillips
Isaac Smith Esq.
Thomas Gray Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. Henry Liddle

And found the South Grammar School had 137 Scholars; the North Grammar School 56 Scholars, the South Writing School 231 Scholars the North Writing School 250 Scholars; the Writing School in [**305.**] Queen Street 268 Scholars; all in very good order ——

Voted that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to Visit the publick Schools the Year ensuing, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they may think proper ——

The Committee appointed to take into Consideration that Article in the Warrant of the 11. of March relating to the sweeping of Chimnies, have attended that Service and Report as follows — Vizt.——

Supposing that there is 1800 Dwelling Houses, and that 3 Funnels be estimated to an House the number of Funnels would then be 5400 — and if necessary to be swept four times p Year would be equal to 21600 Funnels, which at the present price would amount to more than £1200 — and it is supposed, that it costs many who are careful to have their Chimnies swept 15/ or 16/ p Year; notwithstanding which by their Neighbors neglecting to sweep their Chimnies their Houses are constantly in more danger from such then from their own. And as many Plans have been proposed for the Consideration of the Town, and the mischieves complain'd of have not been prevented, which must appear notorious to the Inhabitants; Your Committee are of Opinion that if some such Plan as the following be come into, it would be found very beneficial to the Community, that the Expence arising by the sweeping of the Chimnies be paid by a Tax as the other charges of the Town — that there be a Master and six Sweepers, said Master to be a Man of a fair Character, and that will carefully attend the Business; and he to be allowed £100 — and for each of the Six Sweepers £50 — lawful Money p Year to be paid Quarterly which Sums make £400 — by which a saving will be made (supposing all the above Chimnies were swept as they ought to be) of £800—p Annum at least. The said Master to be [**306.**] Appointed by and under the direction of the Selectmen; and shall keep a Book of all the Dwelling Houses, the number of Funnels made use

of in each House and Ward, and that he begin with one Ward, sweep through, and so on minuting the time of sweeping in order to exhibit the same to the Selectmen; who shall draw upon the Treasurer once a quarter for the Sum of One hundred Pounds upon his rendring to them an Account to their satisfaction, that the Funnels have been swept in each Ward; and that if any Chimnies catch on fire by his neglecting to sweep the same, or by the carelessness of the Servants in sweeping that he be subject to a fine of — And that said Master provide the Books, suitable clothing and Implements for the sweepers, and all other Charges attending the same. Upon the above Plan it will turn out 12 Funnels p Day for each Sweeper, allowing him 300 — working Days which will compleat the above 21.600 Funnels. After tryal being made should it appear that there are more Houses & Funnels then in the above Estimate, in that case the Gentlemen the Selectmen may make such an allowance to the Master as will be in proportion to the above Plan ——

THOMAS DAWS
JONATHAN WILLIAMS
SAMUEL AUSTIN

The above Report having been read, it was motioned and carried that the same lay till the Adjournment of this Meeting; then to be considered of by the Town ——

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors.

Upon a motion made Voted, that the Town Clerk be directed to insert in the News Papers the Adjournment of this Meeting and that the consideration of Salarys and Grants as also of the [**397.**] Sum necessary to be raised for Relief of the Poor and defraying other necessary Charges within the Town the Year ensuing, will then come on ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 27. of May Instant 3. O'Clock P:M: ——

Tuesday the 27. of May 3. O'Clock P:M: Met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed to examine the Accompts of M^r. David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that service & find the same right cast and well vouched in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £4000 ,, — ,, all which amount to the Sum of £10599 ,, 5 ,, 3 . including the balance of old Accompt ——

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors amounting to £967.7.3. by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3024 ,, 18 ,, $5\frac{3}{4}$ of which he has paid £2910 ,, 10 ,, $10\frac{1}{4}$. and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Almshouse amounting to £2856 ,, 17 ,, 1. of which he has paid £2177 ,, 0 ,, $0\frac{3}{4}$ also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £486 ,, 1 ,, $6\frac{1}{2}$ the whole amounting to £7525 ,, 2 ,, $4\frac{1}{4}$.

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very partic-

ular manner and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts and every other branch of publick Charge amounting in all as above to £7525 ,, 2 ,, 4¼ as by Accompt of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books balance whereof being £3074 ,, 2 ,, 10¾ is carried to Credit of New Account ——

Which Report and Accompt being read, Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted ——

[308.] The Committee appointed to Consider the Petition of Mr. Jacob Emmons "that a Grant of Moneys may be made him to satisfy for the great loss he has sustained by having his Lands taken from him in order to enlarge a Street laid out through Paddys Alley, and to Report what they may think proper to be done thereon having attended that Service would now Report ——

That it appears to your Committee that the Petitioner has not as yet pursued the steps of the Law in order to obtain a recompence for the loss of his Land &c. which they apprehend ought to be done so that those who are benifitted by his Lands may be legally assessed for the value thereof, — But if after such Assessment the Petitioner should apprehend he has sustained some extraordinary damage which the Jury could not find for him a Petition for such damage might then with more propriety come before the Town ——

The above Report having been read and Considered —the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred and twenty pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be [309.] Allowed and paid unto Mr. John Proctor for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and pay'd unto Mr. Samuel Holbroke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid unto Mr. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the Writing School at the North End for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allow'd and paid unto

Mr. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that a further Sum of Forty Pounds be allow'd and paid unto Mr. James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

[310.] Voted, that a further Sum of Twenty five Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Carter as an encouragement for him to exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid to such Person as the Selectmen shall appoint an Assistant for the Master of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston Master of the Writing School at the North End for providing an Assistant for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office ——

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and impowered to allow the several Schoolmasters Interest on the Sums due to them from the Date of their Warrants to the Time of payment ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that

Mr. William Whitwell
Thomas Daws Esq.
[311.] Meletiah Bourn Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Ezekiel Price ——

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to examine the Town Treasurers Accompts now before the Town, and to make a full enquiry into the state of the Town Treasury and the Debts & Credits of the Town, as also to Report the same at the Adjournment together with what Sum or Sums may be necessary to be raised the ensuing Year as a Town Tax ——

Voted that Mr. William Whitwell
Thomas Daws Esq.
Melitiah Bourn Esq.

Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Ezekiel Price

be a standing Committee to inspect the State of the Town Treasury and from time to time to Report upon that and other Money matter; and if they see fit to apply to the Seclectmen for a Town Meeting to be called upon the same——

Voted that Mr. William Whitwell
Thomas Daws Esq.
Meletiah Bourn Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Ezekiel Price

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to call upon the late Manufactory Company for the Moneys due from them to the Town, and if they do not pay the same, that they then apply to the Town Treasurer to bring an Action against them for the same——

The Committee appointed to Consider of the Petition of Mr. Jonathan Payson late one of the Collectors of Taxes in this Town referred to them the 11. of March last, now Report — [312.] —— That they have several times met the Petitioner, and patiently heard him relative to the subject matter of his Petition and the prayer thereof, they have also considered of his List of Outstanding Taxes, and several times met the Gentlemen the Assessors and heard them, and upon examining said List exhibited by the Petitioner find that the Sum of £10 ,, 15 ,, 1. contained in said List as Outstanding Debts was abated him by the Assessors a considerable time since, and as to many of the other Taxes in said List, if Mr. Payson never received them, the Committee apprehend it must be principally owing to his own negligence several of the Persons taxed were to the personal knowledge of the Committee then in good circumstances, and well able to pay, and as to some others in said List the Committee cannot but think the taxes might have been collected, otherwise the Assessors would not have continued taxing the same Persons year after year for three and four years successively when at the same time they were wholly unable to pay the Tax of the first year, for the Assessors have declared to the Committee that by the great importunity of Mr. Payson they have abated him equal if not more than they ever did to any other Collector, beside the Committee find that the Assessors on the 3d. of March 1766. made a general & full Settlement with Mr. Payson on Account of Abatements for all taxes committed to him to Collect preceeding the Year 1764 — which Settlement the Assessors then entred in their Books, and in the words following vizt. — Mem- " orandum the above Abatements were allowed to Mr. Payson in " consideration of Taxes abated him and no further to be allowed " and is in full to December 31. 1764 exclusive the Tax for " 1764 " — This the Committee look upon to be a final Settlement, and that Mr. Payson can have no pretence to apply to the Town for any abatement of Taxes that preceeded that Year 1764. and most of the Taxes in his List for the following Years. its probable might have been collected, otherways the Assessors would [313.] Have abated them — Upon the whole the Committee are of Opinion that as Mr. Payson during the time he was Collector received of the Town £15000 — old Tenor or upwards for his Premiums

(in which is included his Premium for those very Sums that he Petitions may be abated him) if he has met with any loss it must be but small in proportion to the great benefit it has been to him, and the Committee apprehend that the sustaining Petitions of this kind will be opening such a Door, as will involve the Town in great difficulties hereafter — The Committee would therefore recommend it to the Town that said Petition be dismissed

Which Report being read — It was motioned, that the further Consideration of said Report be referred to the Adjourment and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to the last Monday in June next — 10 O'Clock A: M: ——

Town met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed "to examine the Town Treasurers Accompts; to enquire into the state of the Treasury, the Debts & Credits of the Town, and to consider what sum or sums may be necessary to be raised the ensuing Year as a Town Tax" — beg leave to Report ——

That they have been and now are attending that service; and are not able as yet to exhibit to the Town such a state of their Affairs as is neccessary but hope soon to do it. That from the present view of their Affairs, it seems necessary that the Sum of Eight Thousand Pounds be raised for the present Year ——

WILLIAM WHITWELL
THOMAS DAWS
ALEXANDER HILL
EZEKIEL PRICE
} Committee

[314.] The above Report having been read and considered by the Town, it was Voted, that the same be accepted — And that the Sum of Eight thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls & Estates within the Town for Relief of the Poor, and defreying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year — also

Voted that said Committee be desidered to set again and Report further ——

The Committee appointed to apply to the Managers of the late Manufactory for the Moneys due from them to the Town &c. Reported that they had waited on said Gentlemen, and made demand of the payment of said Moneys, but they were acquainted by them, that they had not yet been able to look so into the Affairs of the Company as to give them a present answer — which Report was accepted, and the Committee desired to Report their future doings to the Town

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Jonathan Payson Esq. a late Collector of Taxes, the consideration of which Report having been referred to this Meeting was again read, and after large debate had thereon, the Question was put — Whether said Report shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

On a Motion made — Voted, that all Matters & Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the next Meeting ——

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved ——

[315.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall June 24. 1771. 4 O'Clock P: M: ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - read ——

Coll^o. Joseph Jackson was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by an Act of this Province ——

The Town brought in their Votes for one Overseer of the Poor in the room of the late Honourable Royal Tyler Esq. deceased, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

William Phillips Esq.

was unanimously chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Collector of Taxes in the room of M^r. Sampson Salter, who declined serving and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

M^r. Benjamin Gray ——

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the Year ensuing ——

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) — "To know the mind of the Inhabitants respecting the raising and paving that part of Milk Street which leads from the Corner of Atkinson Street to the Waterside" — was read and considered, and the Question being put — Whether the Town will now act upon it — Passed in the Negative ——

M^r. Jacob Emmons a late Petitioner informed the Town that having apply'd to several of his Majestys Justices of the Quorum, **[316.]** Praying that they would take the proper steps in order to obtain for him a recompence for the damage done him by the taking away his Lands and pulling down his Chimnies in Paddys Alley; and they having declined acting thereon; he had in consequence thereof commenced several Actions in the Law, against some of the Persons concerned in the Trespass of pulling the said Chimnies &c. — And that he gave the Town this information that they might take such measures relative thereto as the Town in their wisdom shall Judge proper — After considerable debate the Question was put agreable to a Motion made — Whether it be the mind of the Town that this matter does now come properly before them at this Meeting — Passed in the Negative ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Coll^o. Joseph Jackson Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[**317.**] At a meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 5th. Day of March Anno Domini 1772 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read ——

Richard Dana Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province ——

The Committee appointed by the Town the 2d. of April last to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration the 5th. of March Instant to perpetuate the Memory of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770. by a Party of Soldiers under the Order and Eye of Capt. Preston of the 29th. Regiment - - - Reported ——

That they had met together several times for the purposes mentioned in the Town Vote; and that they had unanimously made choice of Dr. Joseph Warren, to deliver an *Oration* for the purposes mentioned in said Vote, who had accordingly accepted of trust ——

The above Report having been read the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted, - - - - Passed in the Affermative unanimously ——

Upon a Motion made the Town took into Consideration the Time when, and the Place where, it would be most convenient and suitable to have the Oration pronounced — whereupon

[**318.**] Voted, that the Oration be delivered at half an Hour past 10. O'Clock, at the Old South Meeting House the Hall not being thought capacious enough for the Inhabitants that would attend, provided the Committee of that Society, should have no objection to the House being made use of for this occasion ——

It was moved and carried that the aforegoing Vote so far as it respects the time, set for pronouncing the Oration be Reconsidered; and that the Oration be delivered at Dr. Sewalls Meeting House at half an Hour past 12. O'Clock: A: M:

Voted, that the Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Jonathan Williams Esq.

be a Committee to wait upon Joseph Warren Esq. and inform him that it is the desire of the Town that the Oration may be delivered by him at the Old South Meeting House at half past 12. O'Clock, this Forenoon ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to the Old South Meeting House there to meet at Half past 12. O'Clock ——

Town met according to Adjournment, at the Old South Meeting House at half past 12. O'Clock ——

The Committee appointed to wait upon Dr. Warren to acquaint him with the Vote of the Town respecting time and place as to the Delivery of An Oration; Reported that the Dr. was ready to comply with the Orders of the Town ——

[319.] An *Oration* to commemorate the *horrid Massacre* of the 5. of March 1770. by a Party of Soldiers under the Eye and Orders of Capt. Preston of the 29. Regiment, and to impress upon the Minds of the Citizens, the Ruinous tendency of standing Armies being placed in Free and Populous Cities &c. was Delivered by Joseph Warren Esq. to a crowded Assembly; agreable to the Vote of the Town ——

Upon a Motion made it was Voted, unanimously that - - -

Richard Dana Esq. Moderator
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Coll°. Joseph Jackson Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
Mr. David Jeffries
Mr. William Mollineux

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to return the Thanks of the Town to Joseph Warren Esq. for the Oration delivered by him at their request, in commemoration of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770. by a Party of Soldiers of the 29. Regiment, and to desire a Copy thereof for the Press ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Ebenezer Storer
Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr. Benjamin Church
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to apply to a proper Gentleman, to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March next to **[320.]** Perpetuate the memory of the horred Massacre perpetuated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770 by a Party of Soldiers of the 29. Regiment; and to impress upon our minds the ruinous tendency of Standing Armies being placed in Free & Populous Cities; and the necessity of such noble Exertions in all future Times as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the Designs of the Conspirators against the publick Liberty may be still frustrated ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put — Whether it be not the sense of the Town, that the Selectmen should issue Warrants for our Annual March Meetings on the 5. of March — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Richard Dana Esq. Moderator of this Meeting, for his good Services ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 9th. Day of March Anno Domini. 1772 ——

Prayer was made by the Revd. Mr. Hunt ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read ——

[321.] Sundry Laws enjoin'd to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province ——

Mr. William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island; took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty; which Oaths were Administred to him by Mr. Justice Noyes ——

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that ——

Coll°. Joseph Jackson - - - - - (excused)
Majr. John Ruddock
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq- - - - - - - d°.
Mr. Ebenezer Storer. - - - - - - - d°.
Mr. Samuel Austin
Coll°. Thomas Marshall

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing ——

see Page

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barret Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
[322.] Mr. Benjamin Dolbear
Mr. William Greanleaff
William White Esq.
John Leveret Esq.
John Gore Esq.
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Mr. Samuel Whitwell
Mr. Samuel Abbot
Mr. Daniel Waldo

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Capt. John Bradford
Mr. John Cobourn
Mr. Samuel Barret Mercht.
Deacon William Boardman
Major Adino Paddock
Mr. Thomas Bayley

Mr. John Preston
Nathaniel Wales Esq.
Mr. Nathan Frazier
were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing ——
see Page

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the choice of a County Treasurer be referred to 4 O'Clock P : M :

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards, and upon sorting them it appeared that

John Scollay Esq.
[323.] Newman Grenough Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
Mr. John Mico Wendell
Colle. Thomas Marshall
Mr. Joseph Tyler
Majr. Adino Paddock
Mr. James Richardson
Capt. Benjamin Waldo
The Honble. John Hancock
Mr. Samuel Adams
Capt. Martin Gay
Francis Shaw Esq.
Majr. Thomas Daws
Mr. Alexander Hill
Capt. Job Prince
were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared that Mr. David Jeffries was chosen, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which were administred to him by Mr. Justice

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Rowe Esq. for his faithful discharge of the Duty of a Fire-Ward a number of Years past

Messrs. John Atkinson - - - - - - - - (excused)
Thomas Parker
William Gale
John Langdon
Henry Knox
[324.] Samuel Breck
Richard Cary
Lewis Gray - - - - - - - - - (excused)
Samuel Eliot Junr.
Peter Hughes
were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing ——
see Page

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put, "Whether Constables and Collectors of Taxes shall be chose separate — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds, be remitted out of the

Ten Pounds Fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving ——

Voted, that the Sum of Twelve Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect; provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the tenth Day of August. 1773. Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums as they shall have so paid into the Treasuries on or before the 20th. Day of December 1773. and four Pence on the Pound upon the remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to Collect, provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the second Monday on March 1774 The Premium as above expressed appears to be Just and equitable, and an ample allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with diligence and fidelity; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with [325.] Sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their duty in said office; and complying with this Vote. ——

Messrs. William Nichols
Andrew Symms
Clement Collins
Henry Allen
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
Richard Walker
John Champney
John Bulfinch
Abraham Howard
Joseph Butler
Joseph Eyres
Thomas Bayley
Andrew Townsend
Joseph Ballard
John Holland
John Rogers
Edmund Ranger
Thomas Uran
Elisha Holmes
Obediah Dow
Benjamin Page
Clement Collins Junr.

were chose Surveyors of Boards for the ensuing Year

see Page

Messrs. John Joy
[326.] Obediah Low
Samuel Dyer
John Dyer
William Crafts

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing

Messrs. Samuel Bangs
Joseph Clark
Daniel Parks
Benjamin Bass
Thomas Noland
were chose Sealers of Leather for the ensuing Year ——
Messrs. William Dows Junr.
Thomas Edes
were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing
Messrs. Peter Cotta
Manesseh Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Harskins
David Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Job Wheelwright
Joshua Pico
Benjamin Salt
Paul Baxter
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White
Edward Cowell
Edward Potter
Peter Ellis
[327.] Timothy Pease
Nathaniel Waterman
Jacob Williams
Samuel Bernard
John Nowell
Joseph Phillips
Henry Lucas
Caleb Hayden
James Bernard
were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing ——
Messrs. David Simins
Thomas Curtis ——
were chose Hogreeves for the ensuing Year
Mr. Thomas Curtis
was chosen Hayward for the ensuing Year
Mr. John Gray
was chosen Surveyer of Hemp for the ensuing Year

Upon a Motion made and seconded it was Voted, that the Scavingers be chosen out of their respective Wards

	Ward.
Messrs. John R. Sigourney - - - - - - - -	No. 1
After Stoddard - - - - - - - - - -	2
Edward Foster - - - - - - - - - -	3
Freeman Pulcifer - - - - - - - - -	4
John Merrit - - - - - - - - - - -	5
James Bayley - - - - - - - - - -	6
Joseph Ridgeway - - - - - - - - -	7

William Perkins - - - - - - - - - - 8
[328.] Robert Williams - - - - - - - - - - 9
Charles Debany - - - - - - - - - - 10
John Martin - - - - - - - - - - 11
Benjamin Wheeler - - - - - - - - - 12

were chose Scavingers for the ensuing Year ——

John Tuder Esq.
Mr. John Lucas

were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the ensuing Year ——

Capt. Martin Gay
Mr. John Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the ensuing Year

Upon a Motion made Voted, that John Ruddock Esq. Chairman of a Committee to examine into the Titles of the Town Dock, be called upon for the Papers, which he has in his hands relative thereto, and for the Report of the Committee, and that Mr. Nathaniel Homes be appointed for this service ——

Coll°. Joseph Jackson
Coll°. John Leveret
Mr. John Sweetser

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the ensuing Year, & they are desired and impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the quantity of Grain to be sold & affixing the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require; and the said Committee are desired and directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be ground at the new Mills near the Mill bridge, now occupied [329.] By Mr. George Leonard ——

Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M:

3. O'Clock P: M: Town met according to Adjournment ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Constables, the Persons chose into that Office and sworn are ——

Messrs. Augustus Hail
Elias Dupee
John Coverley
John Wells
John Salmon
Hezekiah Usher
Joseph Foye
Stephen Symms
George Thomas
John Bennet
Samuel Greanleaff
John Hammett ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Messrs. Edward Hollyday
Abraham Savage
Benjamin Henderson
Benjamin Gray

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the ensuing Year ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for [330.] Seven Asessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. John Kneeland
Mr. Benjamin Church
Belcher Noyes Esq.
Mr. Daniel Pecker
Mr. Jonathan Brown
Gyles Harris Esq.
Capt. Samuel Downe

were chose Assessors for the ensuing Year

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in and sealed up by Mr. Constable to be returned to the Court of Sessions, to whose care they are delivered.

The Committee appointed to inspect the state of the Town Treasury and to Report upon that and other Money matters beg leave to Report ——

That they have inspected into the state of the Town Treasury, and find that there is due, from Edward Hollyday for 1770 the sum of £148 ,, 1,, 7¼. Out of which Sum is to be deducted his Premium for 1770 ——

Abraham Savage for 1770, the Sum of - - £432 ,, 18½
Out of which Sum is to be deducted his Premium for 1770

We also find that all the Collectors of Taxes for the Year 1770 have settled and paid the Province Treasurer & County Treasurer the several Sums by them to be Collected & paid into the Province Treasury for the Year 1770 the Sum of £387 ,, 10 ,, 2. We also find that there still remains to be paid into the Province Treasury on Account of Mr. Samuel Adams the Sum of Fifty Pounds and from the Information given us by Mr. Robert Peirpoint it appears that there is no probability of any part of the Sum of £1149 ,, 19 ,, 0¼ remaining unpaid [**331.**] of Mr. Adams Debt to the Town, will ever be received and paid into the Treasury ——

We also Report that we have examined into the state of the several Lotteries, and find that there appears to be due from

Thomas Cushing Esq. the Sum of - - - £155 ,, 12 ,, 9½
John Ruddock Esq. - - - - - - - - £82 ,, 12 ,, 11

And it appears that the Lottery next proposed to be drawn will amount to the Sum allowed to be raised by Lotteries, in pursuance of the Act of the General Court ——

All which is Submitted in the Name of the Commee

William Whitwell ——

The above Report having been read and Considered — the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that the Consideration of the School masters Salaries, and all other Salaries and Grants be referred over to next May Meeting ——

Upon a Motion Made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is empowered & directed to borrow on Interest a Sum not exceeding Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money, for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Almshouse ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and empowered to give his Ne-

gotiable Notes upon Interest to such of the Overseers of the Poor as are in advance for the relief of the Town, for such Sums as appear to be due to them respectively upon the Auditing of their Accounts to the present Month ——

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and they [**332.**] hereby are appointed to Act upon the List of Jurors ——

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to visit the publick Schools, the ensuing Year, and Invite such Gentlemen to accompany them, as they may think proper

Upon a Motion Voted, that the choice of a Committee to Audit the Town Treasurer Accompts to be referred over to May Meeting ——

The Selectmen Reported on the Account of Mr. Benjamin Fenmo Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Account as entred in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read — whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted, and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for Twenty bushels of Indian, and twenty one bushels of Rye amounting to £8 ,, 4 ,, 8 and also for the Sum of £192 ,, 12 ,, 1 Cash now in his hands, exclusive of the Sum of £32 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary and attendance as charged in his Accompt — which is hereby allowed him ——

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered & directed to set for Abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Wednesday in April inclusive, & no longer saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying in the above limitted time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which time they are also allowed and impowered to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April, and the last Day of November ——

The Petition of the Honble. Andrew Oliver and Thomas Hubbard Esq. and Sylvester Gardiner Esq. Surviving Members [**333.**] of the late Linnen Manufactory Company, praying that an Obligation given to the Town Treasurer for Moneys lent the said Company, may be cancelled and discharged — was read and after debate had thereon, it was motioned and the Question accordingly put — "Whether said Petition shall be referred to a Committee; — which passed in the Negative — It was then moved that said Petition be dismissed, and the Petition was accordingly dismissed ——

The Petition of Jonathan Payson Esq. a late Collector of Taxes, that the Sum of One hundred and nine pounds, may be remitted him the same having been lost in the course of sixteen Years, by means of the Persons taxed going beyond Sea or into other Towns & Provinces, becoming Bankrupts or dying Insolvent, as by a List given in to the Town will appear." was read; and after considerable debate had thereon; a Motion was made that said Petition be dismissed; and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Request of Mr. William Mollineux "that the Town would receive and examine an Account presented by him of the large

Sums he has advanced, and the Expence & trouble he has been at in employing the Poor of the Town in spinning Wool &c. in consequence of a Vote passed by the Town in March 1769. whereby a considerable saving has been made; and that such further allowance may be made him, as the Town in their wisdom shall Judge reasonable and Just." was read and after debate had thereon, it was motioned, and the Question put, Whether said Accompt shall be now read; which passed in the Affermative ——

The Accompt was then read & after some debate it was moved that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday next 9. O'Clock A: M: and 11 O'Clock Assigned for the further Consideration of said Account And that the Gentlemen of the Law be desired to attend the Meeting [**334.**] The Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative

Mr. Ebenezer Storer having desired to be excused from serving as a Selectman into which Office he had been re-chosen he was accordingly excused, and received the Thanks of the Town for his faithful Services——

Adjourned to Tuesday Morning 9. O'Clock A: M:

Tuesday Morning 9. O'Clock. Town met according to Adjournment——

The Petition of Mr. Gowen Brown praying, "that an Allowance may be made him for the Clock lately fixed upon the Old South Meeting House for Reasons set forth in his Petition" was read, and upon a Motion made Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider said Petition, and Report thereon at the Adjournment

It was moved and carried that 4. O'Clock P: M: be assigned for taking into consideration the Article in the Warrant relative to filling up the Dock ——

The Petition of Mr. Robert Hews, "That a peice of the Towns Land may be leased to him for the purpose of Erecting a Slaughter House, for Reasons mentioned in his Petition" was read, and after debate had thereon, Voted, that the same be referred to the Gentlemen Selectmen, who are appointed a Committee to Consider the same and Report their Opinion thereon as soon as may be——

[**335.**] The Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "To know whether the Town will take any method for removing the Nusance in the Common, by the over flowing of the Alms house and Work-house Vaults." was read whereupon Voted, that

Mr. Henderson Inches
The Honble. John Hancock Esq. Moderator
Thomas Daws Esq.
Adino Paddock Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason

be and hereby are appointed to take this matter into Consideration, & Report as soon as may be what they shall Judge to be the best and most effectual method for removing the Nusance complained of——

The Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "Whether the Town are inclined to make sale of the Street Dirt so called within the Bounds

of Boston to any suitable Persons who shall incline to contract for the same" was read and debated, whereupon Voted, that——

Coll°. John Hill
Majr. Adino Paddock
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Mr. William Whitwell
Mr. Nathaniel Balch

be a Committee to consider this matter and Report as soon as may be their Opinion——

That Article in the Warrant (Vizt.) "To consider of the expediency of fixing Lamps in proper parts of the Town for the better accommodation of the Inhabitants"—was read whereupon Voted, that ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. Ebenezer Storer
Mr. Henderson Inches
[336.] William Phillips Esq.
Mr. Benjamin Austin
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton

be a Committee to consider of the expediency of fixing Lamps in this Town, and to Report as soon as may be their Opinion, what number of Lamps may be necessary, and the most proper places to fix them; as also to make enquiry whether the Town can legally raise an Annual Fund to support the charge thereof——

The Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "To consider what Methods shall be taken for the preservation of Beacon Hill" was read whereupon Voted, that ——

John Tuder Esq.
Thomas Gray Esq.
John Avery Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.
Belcher Noyes Esq.

be a Commitee to take this matter into Consideration, and to Report as soon as may be ——

This being the time assigned for the further Consideration of Mr. Mollineuxs Request, that the Town would receive & examine an account presented by him, of his Expense in carrying on the spining business &e. and also make him such further Allowance for his Expence and loss therein as might be thought Just and reasonable — It was motioned & carried that the Report of a Committee in 1769. relative to employing the Poor should be first read; which Report was accordingly read. After considerable debate on the subject matter of Mr. Mollineuxs Request; and the legality or illegalty of now acting thereon; It was moved that the Opinion of Mr. Justice Dana now present might be takeu respecting the [337.] Power of the Town to Remit Mr. Mollineux the £300 — lent him; and Mr. Dana being accordingly apply'd to declared — "That he doubted whether the Town could legally remit him said Sum" several other Gentlemen of the Law being present, and not disagreeing with Mr. Dana in Opinion — It was then moved the Question might be put. "Whether the Town will

act any further on Mr. Mollineuxs Accompt "and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded the Question was put, "Whether a certain printed Paper lately spread abroad & even dispers'd in this Meeting, reflecting on the character of Mr. William Mollineux, and tending to prejudice him with the Town while his Petition was depending, should not agreable to the desire of said Gentleman be read — it passed in the Affermative This Paper being accordingly read, it was moved and the Question put — Whether it be not the sense of the Town, that said Paper be rejected with Disdain, as containing unjust reflections on Mr. Mollineuxs Character; and that so their abhorrence and detestation should be expressed at such Methods being taken to asperce the Character of an Individual — which passed in the Affermative ——

It was then Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Mr. William Mollineux, for his faithful discharge of a Contract entred into with the Town relative to employing their Poor in the Spinning Business &c. ——

Mr. John Lucas lately chosen a Warden having desired the Town that he might on account of his present ill state of health be excused from serving in that Office; he was accordingly excused ——

Mr. Seward chosen one of the Constables for the present [338.] Year having desired to be excused from serving in that Office he was accordingly excused by the Town ——

Coll°. Joseph Jackson one of the Selectmen re-chosen into that Office, having desired to be excused from serving in that Office, he was accordingly excused, and upon a Motion made Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be given the Collonel for his faithful services as a Selectman, a number of Years past ——

Adjourned to 3. O'Clock, P: M:

3. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment

A Letter from Samuel Pemberton Esq. to the Town desiring to be excused from serving in the Office of a Selectman into which he had been lately chosen; was read & his resignation accepted ——

Mr. John Atkinson chosen into the Office of a Clerk of the Market having desired to be excused from that service he was accordingly excused ——

Messrs. Charles Sigorney
Jonathan Williams Junr.
Samuel Bradstreet
David Green ——

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made & seconded, the Question was put — "Whether upon Jonathan Payson Esq. a late Collector of Taxes paying into the Town Treasury the Sum of £109 ,, 17 ,, 8 in which is included the Sum of £22 ,, 8 ,, 1 allowed by the Court for Interest, the Execution obtained against said [339.] Payson shall be returned satisfied — Passed in the Affermative

It was moved and Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to Samuel Pemberton Esq. for his faithful Services as a Selectman for several Years past ——

It was motioned that the choice of the Selectmen, in the room of those who have resigned, be referred over to the Adjournment; and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Consideration of the Article in the Warrant respecting filling up the Dock being assigned over to this time, a Committee chosen the 20. September 1770. made Report to the Town; a Motion was then made that said Report be recommitted and that the Committee be desired to look further into the Grants made to those whom the Davis's hold under, and to consult Council learned in the Law, respecting the Titles of the Claiments to said Dock ——

The Town brought in their Votes for two Wardens and upon sorting them it appeared that

Messrs. Josiah Waters
Henry Bass

were chose Wardens for the ensuing Year ——

Voted, that Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. John Amory
Thomas Gray Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor. & the said Committee are enjoin'd to inspect every particular [340.] Account of the Moneys expended for the use of the Almshouse they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accounts to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance moneys for the relieve of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the time so advanced; till they shall have Audited said Accompts; And they are desired to Report from time to time a state of the Treasury respecting the Debts and Credits, and on any matters that they may think proper ——

see further ——

It was motioned and Voted, that the Town Treasurer be directed to make enquiry into the cause why James Pitts Esq. and some others have stopt payment of their Quit Rents; and to Report at the Adjournment ——

Mr. Dinely Wing

was chosen a Surveyor of Boards for the ensuing Year ——

Mr. John Childs chosen one of the Hogreeves having desired to be excused from serving in that Office he was accordingly excused ——

Voted, that when this Meeting is Adjourned, it shall be to Wednesday the 11th. Instant 4. O'Clock Afternoon ——

Mr. Thomas Bradford

was chosen a Hogreeve for the ensuing Year

Adjourned to Wednesday the 11th. Instant 4. O'Clock P: M: ——

[341.] Wednesday 4. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

The Town brought in their Votes for three Selectmen & upon sorting them it appeared that ——

John Scollay Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches - - - - - (excused)
Mr Jonathan Mason - - - - - dº.
were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing

see Page
Wards.
Messrs. James Bayley - - - - - - - - - - 6
Charles Dabney - - - - - - - - - - 10
were chose Scavingers for the Year ensuing

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to inforce the Duty of Scavingers upon such Persons as have been chose into that Office; and if upon enquiry and examination they should find any defects in the Laws relating to those Officers, that they Report the same to the Town, that they may act thereon as they shall think proper ——

Messrs. Richard Flood
William Rogers
were chose Cullers of Staves for the ensuing Year ——

Mr. Henry Blaisdell
was chosen a Surveyor of Boards for the ensuing Year ——

Mr. Henderson Inches chosen a Selectman, having desired to be excused by the Town from serving in that Office, he was accordingly excused — And upon a Motion made & seconded

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to Mr. Henderson Inches, for his faithful services as a Selectman a number of years past ——

[342.] Mr. Jonathan Mason chosen a Selectman, having desired to be excused by the Town from serving in that Office he was accordingly excused — And upon a Motion made

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to Mr. Jonathan Mason for his faithful Services as a Selectman several years past ——

The Town brought in their Votes for two Selectmen and upon sorting them it appeared —

Deacon Timothy Newell
Dr. John Greanleaf - - - - - - (excused)
were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing ——

see page

Mr. Nathan Hancock chosen a Warden for the ensuing Year, having desired to be excused from serving in that Office he was accordingly excused ——

Adjourned to Tuesday the 24. Instant 10. O'Clock Before Noon ——

Tuesday March 24. — 10. O'Clock Before Noon Town met according to Adjournment ——

Dr. John Greanleaff who was chosen a Selectman having desired of the Town that he might be excused from serving in that Office, he was accordingly excused ——

The Committee appointed to consider that Article in the Warrant relative to Street Dirt within the Town of Boston now Report ——

"That having met & considered of that Article they are of Opinion that the Selectmen publickly Advertize, [**343.**] That they by publick Auction (at such time and place as they shall think proper) will sell the Street Dirt of the several 12 Wards in the Town, to twelve several Persons of good Credit, who shall be the highest Bidders, each one to have a Ward, who may dispose of that privilege among such of his Neighbors as he shall think fit: And that each of the twelve Purchasers give their Obligations to keep all the Streets or parts of Streets in their several Wards, in good condition of cleanness during the term of twelve Months from the time of their purchase, & at the expiration of the Year pay to the Town all such sums of Money as will then be due agreable to the Conditions of their several Obligations aforesaid ——

The above Report having been read, and debate had thereon — the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Mr. Robert Hews. "That a peice of the Towns Land may be Leased to him for the purpose of Erecting a Slaughter House" Reported — "That upon discoursing Mr. Hews they find, that since his Petition was preferred he has purchased a peice of Ground of the quantity of 400 feet, situate & lying in Pleasant Street and adjoining Mr. Shurburnes Land; that he purposes to Erect his Slaughter House over the Water, & at about 600 feet distance from any Dwelling-house, and in case he so does they do not apprehend that it will be attended with any disadvantages to the Inhabitants. ——

The above Report having been read & considered — the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative.

The Selectmen appointed a Committee to consider the Petition of Mr. Gowen Brown relative to purchasing a new Clock — Report, That they have conferred with him respecting the same, and find that he would part with said Clock for One hundred Pounds Sterling, but although in their Opinion the same is finished in a manner which must do honor to the Artist, yet as upon examination the Clock placed upon the Old Brick Meeting House is in so good repair, as to be likely at a very triffling Annual Expence to answer the purpose of a publick Clock, for many Years, they cannot for this reason give it as their Opinion, that it will be necessary for any other Clock to be purchased by the Town ——

The above Report having been read and considered the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

A motion was made that the Selectmen be desired to prepare a By Law relative to the Street Dirt, to be laid before the Town, and then presented to the Court of Sessions for their acceptance, and the Question being accordingly put it did not obtain ——

It having been moved that there should be a reconsideration of the Vote, for accepting the Report of a Committee relative to the making sale of the Street Dirt — the Question was accordingly put — which passed in the Affermative

The consideration of the above Report having been again taken up, and considerable debate had thereon — the Question was put. Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Negative —

The Town brought in their Votes for one Selectman & upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Mr. Oliver Wendell

was chosen a Selectmen for the Year ensuing ——

[345.] The Town brought in their Votes for one Warden, and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

Mr. Zachariah Brigdon

was chosen a Warden for the ensuing Year ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that

Richard Gridley Esq.
John Hill Esq.
Mr. Robert Peirpoint
William Phillips Esq.
Stephen Greanleaff Esq.
Mr. Harmond Brimmer

be and hereby are appointed in addition to the Committee appointed to Judge on the best and most effectual Method for removing the Nuesance on the Common ——

Ezekial Goldthwait Esq. Chairman of the Committee appointed to Audit the Town Treasurers Accounts having desired leave to resign, and Nominate a Gentlemen in his room, he was accordingly excused and upon his Nomination, it was Voted, that

John Rowe Esq.

be appointed one of the Auditors of the Town Treasurers Accounts in the room of Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. who has resigned

Upon a Motion made & seconded, The Report of a Committee to inspect the Town Treasury &c. was again read and in the course of the debate one of said Committee informed the Town that Mr. Sampson Salter, a late Collector had made considerable payments to the Treasurer since said Report had been given in and accepted by the Town — It was then moved that the further consideration of said Report, be referred over to May Meeting — And the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative ——

A Motion was made and the Question put — Whether Mr. [346.] Brigdon should be excused from serving as a Warden, and the Question being put, he was not excused ——

Voted, that all Matters and Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next, to be then considered of and acted upon ——

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 6th. Day of May Anno Domine 1772.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Chauncey ——
The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting, read
Sundry Laws - - - - - - - - - - - - - - read ——
John Scollay Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their [**347.**] Names to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembly to be held at — upon Wednesday the 27th. Day of May Current, and in order thereto to consider, and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected. Accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Polls shall be closed at 12. O'Clock ——

The Votes being brought in the number of the same were found to be Seven hundred & twenty three, and upon sorting them it appeared that the four following Gentlemen were chosen, Viz^t ——

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - -	699
The Honble. John Hancock Esq. - - - - -	690
M. Samuel Adams. - - - - - - - - - -	505
William Phillips Esq. - - - - - - - - -	668

The choice of Representatives being over & declared by the Selectmen; the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw & bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant. Accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, & brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M: ——

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 6. 1772 ——

[**348.**] Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 7th. Day of May last, desiring the Selectmen to Visit the several public Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they shall think proper and to Report thereon ——

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Wednesday the 10th. Day of July last, and the following Gentlemen were invited to accompany us therein ——

His Excellency the Governor
His Honor the Lieu^t. Governor
The Honble. John Erving Esq.
James Bowdoin Esq.
Thomas Hubbard Esq.
Harrison Gray Esq.
James Pitts Esq.
Thomas Flucker Esq.
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
The Representatives of the Town
The Overseers of the Poor ——
The Rev^d. Charles Chauncey - - D: D:
Mather Byles - - - - - D: D:
Andrew Eliot - - - - - D: D:

Samuel Cooper - - - - - - D: D:
Ebenezer Pemberton - - - D: D:
Samuel Mather
Peneuil Bowen
John Hunt
John Bacon
William Gorden ——
The Town Treasurer
John Jones Esq.
Isaac Smith Esq.
The Honble. Foster Hutchinson Esq.
[349.] M^r. Henry Laughton
Samuel Fitch Esq.
Capt. Dogget
Benjamin Austin Esq.
James Boutineau Esq.
John Newton Esq.
M^r. Francis Green
Henry Lloyd Esq.
Capt. Samuel Barrett
M^r. William Bell
M^r. John Demming
Edmund Quincy Esq.
M^r. Daniel Hubbard
Capt. Nathaniel Greenwood
Coll^o. Joseph Scott
M^r. William Matthews
M^r. Moses Gill
M^r. John Brown
M^r. Peter Creque
D^r. Nathaniel Perkins
Thomas Gray Esq.
John Scollay Esq.
D^r. James Lloyd ——

And found the South Grammar School had 138 Scholars — the North Grammar School 61 Scholars — the South Writing School 210 Scholars the North Writing School 264 Scholars — the Writing School in Queen Street 268 Scholars; all in very good order ——

Voted, that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen, be desired to visit the public Schools the Year ensuing, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they may think proper ——

[350.] That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — "To Consider what Measures shall be taken to repair or render more respectable the Entrance into this Town near the Fortification," was read and after some debate Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be a Committee to order such Repairs to the Fortification at the Entrance of the Town, as they may Judge proper for the preservation of the same ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be a Committee to view the Towns Lands on the Neck and Report

what they shall Judge necessary to be done for the preservation thereof ——

That Article in the Warrant Viz^{t}. — "That the Town would consider what Instructions shall be given to the Gentlemen that may be chosen to Represent them in the next General Assembly" — was read — and after long debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether the Town would now give Instructions to their Representatives —Passed in the Affermative ——

It was then Voted, that ——

Thomas Gray Esq.
Richard Gray Esq.
M^{r}. William Mollineux
D^{r}. Joseph Warren
D^{r}. Benjamin Church
Josiah Quincy Esq.
M^{r}. William Greanleaff
M^{r}. William Dennie
Joseph Greanleaff Esq.

be & hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up Instruction to the Four Gentlemen this Day chose to Represent the Town of Boston in the next General Assembly, and to Report the same at the Adjournment of this Meeting ——

[**351.**] That Article in the Warrant Viz^{t}. — "Whether the Town will take any steps to make that part of the Street leading from Milk Street to M^{r}. Hallowells House, passable for Carriages," was read whereupon —Voted, that,

M^{r}. Nathaniel Appleton
Jonathan Williams Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
M^{r}. Alexander Hill
Thomas Gray Esq.

be & hereby are appointed a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Report at the Adjournment ——

The Town Treasurer having been directed by the Town at the last March Meeting to make enquiry into the cause why James Pitts Esq. & some others have stopt payment of their Quit Rents and to Report at this Meeting accordingly made Report that he had waited upon M^{r}. Pitts for the purpose aforesaid, who acquainted him that the Town having deprived him of the Privilege of Dockage &^{c}. was the occasion of his withholding the Quit Rents, which had been regularly paid before that time ——

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to consider what may be necessary to be done for the preservation of Beacon Hill — Reported in part, and were desired to Report further at the Adjourment of this Meeting ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded Voted, that the Grants of Money for the Relief of the Poor, and defreying other necessary Charges, be referred over to the Adjournment ——

Voted, that the Consideration of the Sums to be allowed the School Masters &^{c}. be referred over to the Adjournment

Adjourned to the 20. Inst^{t}. 11 O'Clock.

[**352.**] Wednesday the 20. of May, Met according to Adjournment ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded in consequence of a Memorial presented to the Selectmen by Mr. John Lovel, & by them laid before the Town, Representing that the Cellar under the School house which had been Leased to Mr. Gunter for a term of Years, now reverts to the Town, & praying that this small Emolument may be suffered to remain with him, for divers reasons more especially, for his interest & care in procuring Subscription for further Conveniences & Ornaments to the School House, than the Contractors were obliged to furnish: The Effects of which appear in the hight of the Walls of the Room two feet above what the Masons were to build them by Contract in the Carvings round the top, the Frontispeice of the Doors, the Cornish round the Pediment & Eves; the Cupola for the Bell with the Fane upon the top, & the large & commodious Stone Steps at the Entrance of the School; the cost of all which amounted to a much larger sum than that of the Cellar — It was Voted That the said Mr. John Lovel have the use of the Cellar under the South Grammar School, for and during his continuance as Schoolmaster, for Reasons given in his said Memorial

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred & twenty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt for his Salary as Master of the [**353.**] North Grammar School for the Year ensuing the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd & paid unto Mr. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the Writing School at the North End for the ensuing Year the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the further Sum of Forty Pounds be allow'd & paid

unto Mr. John Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain & exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

[**354.**] Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street the Year ensuing the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter——

Voted, that the further Sum of Twenty five Pounds, be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Carter as an encouragement to him to exert himself in the Service of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid to such Persons as the Selectmen shall appoint an Assistant for the Master of the Writing School in the Common the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston Master of the Writing School at the North End for providing an Assistant the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office

Voted, that the Town Teasurer be and he hereby [**355.**] is directed and impowered to allow the several School Masters Interest on the Sums due to them from the date of their Warrants to the time of payment ——

The Committee appointed the 6th. Instant to take into Consideration that Article in the Warrant. Vizt. —"Whether the Town will take any steps to make that part of the Street leading from Milk Street to Mr. Hallowells House passable for Carriages" Report ——

That we are of Opinion that it is highly necessary said new Street should be paved in order to make it passable for Carriages. We find that by an Act of the General Assembly when said new Street was laid out, that Benjamin Hallowell Esq. was ordered and did Agree to remove the paving Stones of the Old Street into the new at his Expense, but the replacing them was to be at the Expense of the Town. Mr. Halowell is now ready to comply with the aforesaid Order, as soon as the Town shall request it. The Street is about ten or eleven Rods long, and the paving Stones of the Old Street are Judged sufficient for half or a third of the new ——

JOHN ROWE
JONATHAN WILLIAMS
NATHANIEL APPLETON

The aforegoing Report having been read & considered It was Voted, that the same be accepted & that the Selectmen be & here-

by are directed to see that M^r^. Hallowell has or does perform what has been enjoined him by the Act of the General Assembly, & that then the said Street be so far paved, as to the Selectmen shall appear necessary ——

The Committee Appointed to prepare Instructions for the Gentlemen who Represent the Town in the General Assembly Reported the following Draft, which being read & considered [**356.**] Paragraph by Paragraph, was unanimously accepted by the Town and are as follows Viz^t^.——

To the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. M^r^. Samuel Adams The Honble John Hancock Esq. and Mr William Phillips ——

Gentlemen

The choice we have made of you to Represent us in the Assembly of the Commons of this Province at the ensuing Sessions of the General Court, is the strongest Testimony of the high Opinion which we entertain of your Abilities and Integrity; Nevertheless we think it our Duty at such a time as this when the very Being of our Constitution is so dangerously attacked, to express to you whom we have deputed & impowered to act for us, the sense we have of the Oppressions which we suffer — No People were ever in circumstances more truly alarming than those in which the People of this Province now are An exterior Power claims a Right to govern us, & have for a number of Years been levying an illegal tax on us; whereby we are degraded from the rank of Free Subjects to the despicable Condition of Slaves. For its evident to the meanest Understanding that Great Britain can have no Right to take our Moneys from us without our consents unless we are her Slaves, unless our Bodys our Persons are her property she surely cannot have the least claim to dispose of our earnings, & tho. we have hitherto failed of success our applications for the redress of this cruil grieveance we are still determined to exert our utmost efforts to break up this baneful source of Despotism & Misery. The attention of every one who has the least affection for his Country must be awakened to this important Subject when he sees [**357.**] The long train of evils which flow from it. We are especially under the most uneasy apprehensions from the repeated refusals of our Governor to accept of an honourable support from the People and we have the highest reason to believe that apart of the very Money unjustly taken from us is applyed to support him in a state of Independance upon the People over whom he presides — If this is the case our situation is truly deplorable. The same oppressions of which we so justly complain are made the support of the Man, who ought to exert his utmost power to obtain a redress of our Grievances. A Ruler Independent of the People over whom over whom he presides, is abhorrent to the Principles of a Free Government — Power without a Check is Tyranny, whoever is possessed of such a power is a Master instead of a Governor, and whoever submits to such a power is a Slave instead of a Subject. The intention & only reasonable end of Government is the happiness of Mankind; and every branch of a legal Government ought to be interested in the public wellfare, & should have every possible inducement to study & promote the *good & happiness* of the

governed: But we fear that the Interest of this People and of the Gentleman who presides over us, are made as distinct & even as opposite as they possibly can be; and if we allow ourselves to form a Judgement from what has taken place since his Excellencys Accession to the Chair, our fears must be augmented & confirmed as the Administration of affairs has been altogether such as much necessarily have resulted from an opposition of interest and the Governors intire independancy on us — We shall mention to you a few striking Instances of the Justice of this remark We think it impossible that our Governor should be at liberty to consult like the Father of this People, their true Interest whilst he considers himself bound to obey Instructions sent to him from the other side of the Atlantic: For although he may know that doing any particular Act, would be beneficial to the People, & condusive to his Majestys service, yet if he is instructed to the contrary it must not be done [**358.**] But if he is Instructed to do an Act which he knows will be detrimental to the People and injurious to his Majestys service, yet according to this new System he must do it — every consideration of the fitnes & reasonableness of the transaction is thrown aside, & whatever may be the consequences to King or People, the Governor must excercise the power committed to him not agreable to his discretion and the apparent interest of the Province but according to the Instructions received from a Minister three thousand miles distant — Instructions are urged in excuse for almost everything of which we complain. By an Instruction our Legislative Body are restrained from Meeting at their antient & established seat, contrary to their *inclination* so repeatedly declared to the Governor. By an Instruction our Fortress Castle William built and for a long time supported by the Province for its defence has been delivered to Troops over whom the Captain General of the Province has declared he has no controul; and who to appearance have taken more care to make it formadable to this Town, than to a Foreign Enemy — Under the Influence of an Instruction the Governor has refused his consent to a tax Bill for defreying the necessary Charges of Government because such Persons as the British Minister was pleased to point out, were not expressly exempted from bearing their due proportion of said Tax. And what seems to compleat our misfortune is, that an Instruction is pleaded for refusing a Grant for the payment of our Agents at the Court of Great Britain. Thus we are to be cut off, even from complaint that last resource of the wretched. His Excellency is Instructed not to sign any grant for the payment of an Agent, unless he is chosen by the three branches of the Legislature, he cannot consent to any one who is proscribed in his Instructions. It is against an Administration in which Lord Hillsburrough & his Dependents are principal Actors that we complain [**359.**] But no one whom he disapproves must be allowed to manage our complaints. It is difficult to restrain our indignation at the gross affront offered to our Understandings in this affair. A Capasity but little remote from Idiotism, is sufficient to discover the fatal consequences of this Ministerial plot. ——

The Town have in times past declared to their Representatives

their sense of the burthen laid upon the Commercial Interests of the Community by the extension of the powers of the Court of Admiralty. A Jurisdiction in its very nature repugnant to our Constitution & contrary to Magna Charta, as it invests one Judge appointed by the Crown with Authority to determine concerns the most important to the property and liberty of the Subject — And they expressed their sense of this Grievance as sharpned by the Contrast which appears in the same Statute between the Mother Country & the Colonies — For however it may be urged that the Court of Admirality is established by the Charter of this Province yet by the same Charter the People of this Province are entitled to all the Liberties privileges & Immunities of free British Subjects — And to see the British Parliament by one and the same Statute, taking from the Colonies an important right namely TRIALS BY JURIES & securing that Right to themselves in cases of the same nature & importance must be deeply affecting to us. We take this opportunity of renewing our protestations against the powers of that Court which have already proved so vexatious to Persons concerned in trade; and in a very recent Instance according to the best information we are able to obtain, have been made use of to disturb & harrass the industrious Farmer, & which if not restrained bid fair to render all property either Real or Personal to the last degree precarious — Thus Gentlemen have we exhibited to you a view of many of the Grievances which distress this People: And we expect you will use your utmost Influence in the ensuing Session of the General Court to have them radically redressed; not doubting but you will receive the most ready and effectual assistance from those wise Patriots who are or shall be chosen [**369.**] To Represent our Brethren in the several Towns of this faithful Province — In particular we desire that you would use your influence that a Remonstrance be presented to his Majesty whose elevated station denominates him the Father of his People, and the tenor of whose Throne is the protection of his Subjects against the Oppressions which we suffer laying open to his view in the fullest and plainest manner the true state of this his Province of the Massachusetts Bay, & pleading with him with that freedom & firmness which the Justice of the cause & the exigencys of your Country demand. And that you may not fail of reaching the Royal Ear, we Instruct you to exert yourselves to procure a proper Grant from the House of Representatives for the payment of the Agents, who have served the Honble. his Majestys Council & the Honble. House of Representatives for some years past, & that you take timely care to know whether the same is concurred with and consented to by the other two Branches of the Legislature. And that if it is not, that you endeavor to obtain a Resolve of the House for a Brief for raising a Sum sufficient for defraying the charges of an Agency for the Year ensuing, that so we may at least in this way make use of our own Moneys to purchase an access to the Ear of our King.——

There are Gentlemen many other Matters of great Importance to the Province which will come before you; & we are happy that we can with confidence commit our concerns to you Having that

by the favor of Divine Providence you will be greatly Instrumental in restoring and securing both to us & our Posterity our violated Rights, thus only may we with reason expect to enjoy the invaluable Blessings of Harmony & good Government ——

Upon a Motion made & Seconded. Voted, that the Committee appointed to prepare Instructions, for the Gentlemen who are chosen to Represent us in the General Assembly the ensuing Year be & hereby are desired to bring in an Article of Instructions relative the Appointment & [**361.**] Salaries of the Judges of the Superior Court ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

Voted, that the Sum of Six thousand five hundred Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for Relief of the Poor and defreying other necessary charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that ——

John Rowe Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.

be added to the Committee appointed to Audit the Town Treasurers Accompts for the last Year in the room of Nicholas Boylston Esq. deceased, and Mr. John Pitts who is out of the Provinces to Report at the Adjournment ——

The Selectmen Appointed a Committee to view the Towns Lands the Neck &c. Reported ——

That having Attended their Duty they found that the Land has been so much wasted away by the Sea, as makes it absolutely necessary that the Dykes should be repaired in such a manner as may prevent the Pavement on the Neck from being destroyed, and the Neck itself from being so far carried away, as that in no distant period, this Town may become an Island. That they were not able at present to lay before the Town an Estimate of the Charge which will be necessarily incurred in effecting those Repairs, and therefore proposed to the Town that a large Committee be appointed to view the Premisses & to consider of the best Method to secure the Neck, as also of the Sum which will be necessary for the purpose aforesaid, and to Report the same as soon as may be

The above mentioned Report having been considered Voted [**362.**] That the same be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen together with ——

William Phillips Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. William Dennie
Mr. Tuttle Hubbard
Mr. Robert Pierpoint
Mr. Samuel Swift
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton
John Tuder Esq.
Mr. Thomas H. Peck
Mr. William Greanleaff

Mr. John Sweetser
Jonathan Williams Esq.
Collo. John Hill
Mr. John Ballard

be a Committee to view the Neck, and consider of the best Method to secure the same as also of the Sum which will be necessary for this purpose; and to Report as soon as may be

Upon a Motion made & seconded Voted, that

Benjamin Austin Esq.
Mr. William Cooper

be added to the Committee on Instructions and that said Committee be desired to Report at the Adjournment ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that there be so far a reconsideration of the Vote passed on the 5. of March last as that the Meeting to be called on the 5. of March ensuing be solely for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee appointed to procure an Orator to deliver an Oration on said Day, to perpetuate the Memory of the Boston Massacre — And that the Annual March Meeting, be appointed at the usual time, notwithstanding the Vote be referred to ——

[**363.**] The Honble. John Hancock Esq. having made a tender to the Town of a Fire-Engine, he had lately imported; it was thought more respectful to that Gentleman, that the consideration of his offer should be referred to the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday next 3. O'Clock P: M: and that the Town be Notified thereof in the several News Papers ——

The Meeting was accordingly Adjourned

Fryday May 22d. 3. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed to examine the Accompts of Mr. David Jeffries Town Treasurer — Report — That they have attended that service, & find the same right cast & well vouch'd in which he charges himself with Sundry Fines, Rents & other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £8000 — all which amount to the Sum of £12287 ,, 13 ,, 2, including the balance of Old Accompts ——

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors amounting to £361 ,, 1 ,, 6, by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3249 ,, 12 ,, 11½ of which he has paid £2896 ,, 14 ,, 10¾ — And by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor, which contain the Charges of the Almshouse amounting to £3506 ,, 2 ,, 8. of which he has paid £2547,, 16 ,, 2. also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £216,, 14 ,, 6. the whole amounting to £7333 ,, 11 ,, 7½

The said Committee have inspected said drafts in a very particular manner, & have examined the Vouchers, produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts & every other branch of publick Charge amounting in all as above [**364.**] To £7333 ,, 11 ,, 7½ as by Account of Town Treasury in Town Treasury Books; Balance whereof being £4954 ,, 1 ,, 6½ is carried to the Credit of New Account ——

Which Report and Account being read Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted ——

The Committee appointed to prepare an Instruction to our Representatives respecting the Appointment & Salarys of the Judges of the Superior Court, having met upon the occasion now Report — That your Committee cannot Agree upon any set of Instructions, respecting this matter ——

The above Report having been read, Voted, that the same be accepted ——

A Motion was made that a new Committee be now appointed to prepare an Instruction for our Representatives in General Assembly, relative to the Appointment and Salary of the Judges of the Superior Court; and after long debate had thereon the Motion did not obtain — It was then moved & seconded, that the further Consideration of this Matter be referred to the next Town Meeting — The Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. having made a tender to the Town of a new & finely constructed Engine for the extinguishing of Fires, provided they will direct the Gentlemen the Selectmen to appoint a suitable Company for the same, and allow the Men belonging thereto, the Exemptions & Privileges indulged the other Engine Men, — It is therefore Voted, that the Town do accept of the said generous present of M^r^. Hancock as a fresh mark of his Regard for the safety & welfare of the Town, and that the Selectmen be directed to appoint a suitable Number of Men [**365.**] For working said Engine at any Fires that may happen, with such a Master as M^r^. Hancock may be pleased to Nominate, and that said Company when appointed be and hereby are Excused & exempted from all such Duty, and entitled to all such privileges and Allowances as are the present Enginemen of this Town — and that said Engine be placed under proper cover, at or near Hancocks Wharff and in case of Fires, the Estate of the Donor shall have the preference of its service ——

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. or the above mentioned generous Donation to this Town.——

Voted, that the Thanks of this Town be & hereby are given to the Honble John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 28. Day of October Anno Domini. 1772 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - - read ——

[**366.**] The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Neighbouring Governments as required by an Act of this Province ——

The several Petitions relative to a Report, that Stipends are affixed by order of the Crown, to the Offices of the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature of this Province & setting forth the dangerous consequences that must attend such an Establishment; were read & debated, whereupon it was Moved and seconded — That a decent and respectful Application from this Meeting be made to his Excellency the Governor, acquainting him that the Town has been alarm'd with the Reports that Stipends are affixed to the Office of the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature of this Province whereby they are rendred intirely independent of the Grants and Acts of the General Assembly for their support which the Town is apprehensive will be attended with the most fatal consequences, and therefore humbly and earnestly to pray his Excellency, that he would be pleased to inform them, whether his Excellency has received *any advice* relative to this matter in *any way* from whence he has reason to apprehend that such an Establishment has or will be made — And the Question being accordingly put, it passed in the Affermative by a vast majority — also

Voted, that Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr Joseph Warren
Dr. Benjamin Church

be a Committee to draw up an Address to the Governor on the aforegoing Subject and to Report at the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M:

[367.] 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment

The Committee to prepare an Address to the Governor, Reported the following Draft Vizt ——

May it please your Excellency

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally Assembled in Faneuil Hall, beg leave to acquaint your Excellency, that a Report has prevailed, which they have reason to apprehend is well grounded, that Stipends are affixed to the Offices of the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature of this Province whereby they are become Independents of the Grants of the General Assembly for their support; contrary to antient and invariable usage this Report has spread an alarm among all considerate Persons, who have heard of it, in Town and Country; being view'd as tending rapidly to compleat the System of their Slavery, which originated in the House of Commons of Great Britain assuming a power and authority to give and grant the Moneys of the Colonists without their consent, and against their repeated Remonstrances. And as the Judges hold their places during pleasure, this Establishment appears big with fatal evils, so obvious that it is needless to trepass on your Excellencys time in mentioning them — It is therefore the humble and earnest request of the Town that your Excellency would be pleased to inform them, whether you have received any such advise relating to a matter so deeply interesting to the Inhabitants of this Province which gives you assurance that such an Establishment has been or is likely to be made — The aforegoing Report having been considered, the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted,

which passed in the Affermative — *Nem Con*^{t} also — Voted, that ——

William Phillips Esq.
The Honble James Otis Esq.
M^{r}. Samuel Adams ——
[368.] Deacon Timothy Newell
D^{r}. Benjamin Church
D^{r}. Joseph Warren
Coll^{o}. Thomas Marshall

be a Committee to present this Address to his Excellency

Adjourned to Fryday the 30. Instant 10. O'Clock Before Noon ——

Fryday October 30. 10 O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee to present the Governor an Address Reported the following answer which his Excellency delivered to them in Writing — Viz^{t} ——

Gentlemen

It is by no means proper for me to lay before the Inhabitants of any Town whatsoever in consequence of their Votes and Proceedings in a Town Meeting any part of my Correspondence as Governor of this Province or to acquaint them whether I have or have not received any advice relating to the public Affairs of the Government. This reason alone if your Address to me had been in other respects unexceptionable, would have been sufficient to restrain me from complying with your desire ——

I shall always be ready to gratify the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston upon every regular Application to me on business of public concernment to the Town as far as I shall have it in my power consistent with fidelity to the trust which his Majesty has reposed in me ——

T: HUTCHINSON ——

The aforegoing answer, having been considered — [**369**.] It was moved and the Question put — Whether application shall be now made to his Excellency by the Town that he would be pleased to permit the General Assembly to meet at the time to which they stand prorogued, which passed in the Affermative *Nem Con*^{t}. — It was then Voted, that

The Honble. James Otis Esq.
M^{r}. Samuel Adams
The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.

be a Committee to prepare a Petition to his Excellency for the purpose aforesaid ——

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants — "That another public School may be Established at the South part of the Town," was read, and after debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether the Consideration of the same shall be referred to March Meeting — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Committee appointed by the Town at a late Meeting to consider what was proper to be done to prevent the ruin of Beacon Hill, were desired to make Report as soon as may be

Voted, that the Town Clerk be directed to lay the Original Grant of Beacon Hill before the Town at their Adjourment ——

Upon a Motion made — Voted, that the Selectmen be added to the Committee relative to Beacon Hill ——

The Committee chosen to prepare a Petition to the Governor, relative to the Meeting of the General Court — Reported the following Draft — Viz^{t}. ——

The Petition of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally Assembled by Adjournment in Faneuil Hall on Fryday 30. of October 1772 ——

[**370.**] Humbly Sheweth——

That your Petitioners are still greatly alarmed at the Report which has been prevalent of late Viz^{t}. That Stipends are affixed to the Offices of the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature of this Province by Order of the Crown for their support ——

Such an Establishment is contrary not only to the plain and obvious sense of the Charter of this Province but also some of the fundamental Principles of the Common Law, to the benefit of which all British Subjects, wherever dispersed throughout the British Empire are indubitably entitled ——

Such a Jealousy have the Subjects in England for their Rights Liberties & Privileges, and so tender a regard has been shown them by his Majestys that notwithstanding the provision made at the Revolution that the Judges of the Kings Superior Court of Law there should hold their Commissions not at pleasure but during good behavior, and since that time for their support, His Majesty among other the first Acts of this Reign, was graciously pleased to recommend it to Parliment and an Act passed that their Commissions should not cease at the Demise of the King, whereby every thing possible in human wisdom seems to have been done to establish an impartiality in their decisions not only between Subject & Subject, but between the Crown and the Subject — of how much greater importance must it be to preserve from the least supposeable byas — the Judges of a Court, invested by the Laws of this Province which have been approved of by Majesty, with Powers "as fully & amply to all intents and purposes whatsoever as the Court of Kings Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer within his Majestys Kingdom of England have or ought to have" ——

Your Excellency will allow your Petitioners with [**371.**] Due Submission to repeat that the establishment appears to them pregnant with such fatal Evils as that the most distant thoughts of its taking effect fills their minds with dread and horror ——

These Sir are the sentiments and apprehensions of this Metropolis expressed however with due defference to the Sentiments of the Province with which your Petitioners are anxiously solicitous of being made acquainted

It is therefore their earnest and humble request that your Excellency would be pleased to allow the General Assembly to meet at the time to which they now stand prorogued; in order that in that *Constitutional* Body, with whom it is to enquire into Grieveances and Redress them, the Joint Wisdom of the Province may be employed, in deliberating and determining on a matter so important and alarming ——

The Town having considered the foregoing Draft of a Petition to Governor Hutchinson — It was Voted, that the same be accepted, *Nem Con*ᵗ. also Voted, that ——

William Phillips Esq.
The Honᵇˡᵉ. James Otis Esq.
Mʳ. Samuel Adams
Mʳ. Timothy Newell
Dʳ. Benjamin Church
Dʳ. Joseph Warren
Collᵒ. Thomas Marshall

be a Committee to present the Petition to his Excellency ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday next 3. O'Clock P: M:

Monday November 2ᵈ 3. O'Clock P: M: Met According to Adjournment

The Committee appointed to present a Petition **[372.]** To His Excellency the Governor of this Province, Reported and laid before the Town the following Reply which his Excellency had been pleased to deliver them in writing—Vizᵗ ——

Gentlemen

The Royal Charter reserves to the Governor full power and authority from time to time, as he shall Judge necessary to Adjourn prorogue and dissolve the General Assembly

In the exercise of this Power both as to time and place I have always been governed by a regard to his Majestys Service and to the interest of the Province ——

It did not appear to me necessary for those purposes that the Assembly should meet at the time to which it now stands prorogued, and before I was informed of your Address, I had determined to prorogue it to a further time ——

The Reasons which you have advanced have not altered my Opinion. If not withstanding in complyance with your Petition I should alter my determination and meet the Assembly, contrary to my own Judgement at such time as you Judge necessary, I should in effect yield to you the exercise of that part of the prerogative and should be unable to Justify my conduct to the King — There would moreover be danger of encouraging the Inhabitants of the other Towns in the Province to Assemble from time to time in order to consider of the necessity or expediency of a Session of the General Assembly or to debate & transact other matters which the Law that authorises Towns to Assemble, does not make the business of a Town Meeting ——

T. HUTCHINSON ——

The foregoing Reply having been read several times and duly considered; it was moved & the Question accordingly put Whether the same be satisfactory to the Town; which passed in the Negative *Nem: Con*ᵗ. And thereupon ——

[373.] RESOLVED as the Opinion of the Inhabitants of this Town that they have ever had, and ought to have a right to Petition the King or his Representatives for the Redress of such Grievances as they feel or for preventing of such as they have

reason to apprehend, and to communicate their Sentiment to other Towns

It was then moved by Mr Samuel Adams, That a Committee of Correspondence be appointed to consist of twenty one Persons — to state the Rights of the Colonists and of this Province in particular, as Men, as Christians, and as Subjects; to communicate and publish the same to the several Towns in this Province and to the World as the sense of this Town, with the Infringements and Violations thereof that have been, or from time to time may be made — Also requesting of each Town a free communication of their Sentiments on this Subject — And the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative. *Nem. Con*t. — Also

Voted, that, The Honble James Otis Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr. Joseph Warren
Dr. Benjamin Church
Mr. William Dennie
Mr. William Greanleaff
Joseph Greanleaff Esq.
Dr. Thomas Young
Mr. William Powell
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton
Mr. Oliver Wendell
Mr. John Sweetser
Josiah Quincy Esq.
Capt. John Bradford
Richard Boynton Esq.
Capt. William Mackay
Majr. Nathaniel Barber
Deacon Caleb Davis
[374.] Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. William Mollineaux
Mr. Robert Pierpont

be and hereby are appointed a Committee for the purpose aforesaid, and that they be desired to Report to the Town as soon as may be ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 20. Day of November Anno Domini 1772. 10 O'Clock. A: M: ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - read ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Neighbouring Governments as required by an Act of this Province ——

The Committee appointed to state the Rights of the [375.] Colonists and of this Province in particular, with the Infringements and violations thereof &c. &c. Reported, and the same having been twice read and considered distinctly — The 1st part of said Report — viz*t*. *The state of the Rights of the Colonists*, was put and accepted — *Nem. Con*t. The 2d part of the Report, viz*t*. *The Enumeration of the Violations of our Rights*, was referred to the Committee for some Additions relative to the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General & Soliciter Generals Salaries, and to the Fees of the Custom-house, and they were desired to report again ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 4. O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment

The Committee appointed to Enumerate the *Violations of our Rights* — Reported again with the Amendments & Additions ordered by the Town in the Forenoon, and the same having been read and considered, was accepted by the Town NEM CONT

The 3d part of the Report of said Committee — viz*t*. — *A Letter of Correspondence to the other Towns*, was again read, and having been duly considered, was accepted to be sent to the other Towns. *Nem Con*t ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the foregoing Proceedings be printed and that the Committee of Correspondence be desired to dispose of Six hundred of the printed Pamphlets among the Selectmen of the several Towns, and such other Gentlemen as the Committee shall think fit ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Town Clerk be and hereby is directed to Attest, the State of Rights, and the Enumeration [376.] Of the Violations thereof; as has been accepted by the Town

It was then moved and obtained, that the Town Clerk be directed to sign the aforementioned Letter of Correspondence and forward as many of the same to the Selectmen of each Town, as the Committee shall think proper and direct ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

The Votes and Proceedings of the Town at their late Meeting the 20. November 1772 were by Order of the Town, published in a Pamphlet, one of which was sent to each Town in the Province, and the same as accepted by said Meeting, is as follows Viz*t* ——

The Committee appointed by the Town the second Instant "to State the Rights of the Colonists and of this Province in particular, as Men, as Christians, and as Subjects; to communicate and publish the same to the several Towns in this Province and to the World as the sense of this Town with the Infringements and Violations thereof that have been, or from Time to Time may be made. Also requesting of each Town a free Communication of their Sentiments Reported ——

[377.] *First*, a State of the *Rights* of the Colonists and of - - - - this Province in particular ——

Secondly, A List of the *Infringements*, and Violations of those - - - - Rights. ——

Thirdly, A Letter of Correspondence with the - - - - - - other Towns. ——

1st. Natural Rights of the Colonists as Men. ——

Among the natural Rights of the Colonists are these First. a Right to *Life;* Secondly to *Liberty;* thirdly to *Property;* together with the Right to support and defend them in the best manner they can — Those are evident Branches of, rather than deductions from the Duty of Self Preservation, commonly called the first Law of Nature ——

All Men have a Right to remain in a State of Nature as long as they please: And in case of intollerable Oppression, Civil or Religious, to leave the Society they belong to, and enter into another. ——

When Men enter into Society, it is by voluntary consent; and they have a right to demand and insist upon the performance of such conditions, And previous limitations as form an equitable *original compact.* ——

Every natural Right not expressly given up or from the nature of a Social Compact necessarily ceded remains. ——

All positive and civil laws, should conform as far as possible, to the Law of natural reason and equity. ——

As neither reason requires, nor religeon permits the contrary, every Man living in or out of a state of civil society, has a right peaceably and quietly to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. ——

"Just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty" in matters spiritual and temporal, is a thing that all Men are clearly entitled to, by the eternal and immutable laws [378.] Of God and nature, as well as by the law of Nations, & all well grounded municipal laws, which must have their foundation in the former. ——

In regard to Religeon, mutual tolleration in the different professions thereof, is what all good and candid minds in all ages have ever practiced; and both by precept and example inculcated on mankind: And it is now generally agreed among christians that this spirit of toleration in the fullest extent consistent with the being of civil society "is the chief characteristical mark of the true church" & In so much that Mr. Lock has asserted, and proved beyond the possibility of contradiction on any solid ground, that such toleration ought to be extended to all whose doctrines are not subversive of society. The only Sects which he thinks ought to be, and which by all wise laws are excluded from such toleration, are those who teach Doctrines subversive of the Civil Government under which they live. The Roman Catholicks or Papists are excluded by reason of such Doctrines as these "that Princes excommunicated may be deposed, and those they call *Hereticks* may be destroyed without mercy; besides their recognizing the Pope in so absolute a manner, in subversion of Government, by introducing as far as possible into the states, under

whose protection they enjoy life, liberty and property, that solecism in politicks, Imperium in imperio* leading directly to the worst anarchy and confusion, civil discord, war and blood shed ——

The natural liberty of Men by entring into society is abridg'd or restrained so far only as is necessary for the

See Locks Letters on Toleration

[379.] Great end of Society the best good of the whole ——

In the state of nature, every man is under God, Judge and sole Judge, of his own rights and the injuries done him: By entering into society, he agrees to an Arbiter or indifferent Judge between him and his neighbours; but he no more renounces his original right, than by taking a cause out of the ordinary course of law, and leaving the decision to Referees or indifferent Arbitrations. In the last case he must pay the Referees for time and trouble; he should be also willing to pay his Just qnota for the support of government, the law and constitution; the end of which is to furnish indifferent and impartial Judges in all cases that may happen, whether civil ecclesiastical, marine or military. ——

"The natural liberty of man is to be free from any superior power on earth, and not to be under the will or legislative authority of man; but only to have the law of nature for his rule." ——

In the state of nature men may as the *Patriarchs* did, employ hired servants for the defence of their lives, liberty and property: and they should pay them reasonable wages. Government was instituted for the purposes of common defence; and those who hold the reins of government have an equitable natural right to an honourable support from the same principle "that the labourer is worthy of his hire" but then the same community which they serve, ought to be assessors of their pay: Governors have no right to seek what they please; by this, instead of being content with the station assigned them. that of honourable servants of the society, they would soon become [380.] Absolute masters, Despots, and Tyrants. Hence as a private man has a right to say, what wages he will give in his private affairs, so has a Community to determine what they will give and grant of their Substance, for the Administration of publick affairs. And in both cases more are ready generally to offer their Service at the proposed and stipulated price, than are able and willing to perform their duty. ——

In short it is the greatest absurdity to suppose it in the power of one or any number of men at the entering into society, to renounce their essential natural rights, or the means of preserving those rights when the great end of civil government from the very nature of its institution is for the support, protection and defence of those very rights: the principal of which as is before observed, are life liberty and property. If men through fear, fraud or mistake, should *in terms* renounce & give up any essential natural right, the eternal law of reason and the great end of society, would absolutely vacate such renunciation; the right to freedom being *the gift* of God Almighty, it is not in the power of Man to alienate this gift, and voluntarily become a slave ——

* A Government within a Government ——

2d. *The Rights of the Colonists as Christians* ——

These may be best understood by reading — and carefully studying the institutes of the great Lawgiver and head of the Christian Church: which are to be found closely written and promulgated in the *New Testament* ——

By the Act of the British Parliament commonly called the Toleration Act, every Subject in England [**381.**] Except Papists &c was restored to, and re-established in, his natural right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. And by the Charter of this Province it is granted ordained and established that it is declared as an original right) that there shall be liberty of conscience allowed in the worship of God, to all christians except Papists, inhabiting or which shall inhabit or be resident within said Province or Teritory. *Magna Charta itself is in substance but a constrained Declaration, or proclamation, and promulgation in the name of King, Lord, and Commons of the sense the latter had of their original inherent, indefeazible natural Rights,† as also those of free Citizens equally perdurable with the other. That great author that great jurist, and even that Court writer Mr. Justice Blackstone holds that this recognition was justly obtained of King John sword in hand: and peradventure it must be one day sword in hand again rescued and preserved from total destruction and oblivion. ——

3d. *The Rights of the Colonists as Subjects*

A Common Wealth or state is a body politick or civil society of men, united together to promote their mutual safety and prosperity, by means of their union ‡

The *absolute Rights* of Englishmen, and all freemen in or out of Civil society, are principally, *personal security personal liberty* and *private property.*

All Persons born in the British American Colonies are by the laws of God and nature, and by the Common law of England, *exclusive of all charters from the Crown,* well

[**382.**] Entitled, and by Acts of the British Parliament are declared to be entitled to all the natural essential, inherent & inseperable Rights Liberties and Privileges of Subjects born in Great Britain, or within the Realm. Among those Rights are the following; which no men or body of men, consistently with their own rights as men and citizens or members of society, can for themselves give up, or take away from others

First, "The first fundamental positive law of all Commonwealths or States, is the establishing the legislative power; as the first fundamental *natural* law also, which is to govern even the legislative power itself, is the preservation of the Society."§

Secondly, The Legislative has no right to absolute arbitrary power over the lives and fortunes of the people: Nor can mortals

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* See 1. Wm. and Mary. St. 2. C. 18 — and Massachusetts Charter.
† Lord Cokes Im. Blackstone, Commentaries — Vol. 1st. Page 122.
‡ See Lock and Vatel ——
§ Locke on Government. Salus Populi Suprema Lex esto ——

assume a prerogative, not only too high for men, but for Angels; and therefore reserved for the exercise of the *Deity* alone. ——

"The Legislative cannot Justly *assume* to itself a power to rule by extempore arbitrary decrees; but it is bound to see that Justice is dispensed, and that the rights of the subjects be decided, by promulgated, standing and known laws, and authorized *independent Judges;*" that is independent as far as possible of Prince or People. "*There shall be one rule of Justice for rich and poor; for the favorite in Court, and the Countryman at the Plough*"*

Thirdly, The supreme power cannot Justly take from any man, any part of his property without his consent, in person or by his Representative. ——

These are some of the first principles of natural law & Justice, and the great Barriers of all free states, and of the British

[**383.**] Constitution in particular. It is utterly irreconcileable to these principles, and to many other fundamental maxims of the common law, common sense and reason, that a British house of commons, should have a right, at pleasure, to give and grant the property of the Colonists. That these Colonists are well entitled to all the essential rights, liberties and privileges of men and freemen, born in Britain, is manifest, not only from the Colony charter, in general, but acts of the British Parliament. The statute of the 13th of George 2. c 7. naturalizes even foreigners after seven years residence. The words of the Massachusetts Charter are there, "And further our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby for us, our heirs and successors, grant establish and ordain, that all and every of the subjects of us, our heirs and successors, which shall go to and inhabit within our said province or territory and every of their children which shall happen to be born there, or on the seas in going thither, or returning from thence shall have and enjoy, all liberties and immunities of free and natural subjects within any of the dominions of us, our heirs and successors, to all intents constructions & purposes whatsoever as if they and every of them were born within this our Realm of England." Now what liberty can there be, where property is taken away without consent? Can it be said with any colour of truth and Justice, that this Continent of three thousand miles in length, and of a breadth as yet unexplored, in which however, its supposed, there are five millions of people, has the least voice, vote or influence in the decisions of the British Parliament? Have they, all together, any more right or power to return a single number to that house of commons, who have not inadvertently, but deliberately assumed a power to dispose of their lives,† Liberties and properties, then to choose an

[**384.**] Emperor of China! Had the Colonists a right to return members to the british parliament, it would only be hurtful; as from their local situation and circumstances it is impossible they should be ever truly and properly represented there. The inhabitants of this country in all probability in a few years will be more numerous, than those of Great Britain and Ireland together;

* Locke ——
† See the Act of the last Session, relating to the Kings Dock Yards ——

yet it is absurdly expected by the promoters of the present measures, that these, with their posterity to all generations, should be easy while their property, shall be disposed of by a house of commons at three thousand miles distant from them; and who cannot be supposed to have the least care or concern for their real interest: Who have not only no natural care for their interest, but must be *in effect* bribed against it; as every burden they lay on the colonists is so much saved or gained to themselves. Hitherto many of the Colonists have been free from Quit Rents; but if the breath of a british house of commons can originate an act for taking away all our money, our lands will go next or be subject to rack rents from haughty and relentless landlords who will ride at ease, while we are trodden in the dirt. The Colonists have been branded with the odious names of traitors and rebels, only for complaining of their grievances; How long such treatment will, or ought to born is submitted.

A List of Infringements & Violations of Rights

We cannot help thinking, that an enumeration of some of the most open infringments of our rights, will by every candid Person be Judged sufficient to Justify whatever measures have been already taken, or may be thought proper to be taken, in order to obtain a redress of the Grievances under which we labour. Among many others we [**385.**] Humbly conceive, that the following will not fail to excite the attention of all who consider themselves interested in the happiness and freedom of mankind in general, and of this continent and province in particular. ——

1st The British Parliament have assumed the power of legislation for the Colonists in all cases whatsoever, without obtaining the consent of the Inhabitants, which is ever essentially necessary to the right establishment of such a legislative ——

2d They have exerted that assumed power, in raising a Revenue in the Colonies without their consent; thereby depriving them of that right which every man has to keep his own earnings in his own hands untill he shall in person, or by his Representative, think fit to part with the whole or any portion of it. This infringement is the more extraordinary, when we consider the laudable care which the British House of Commons have taken to reserve intirely and absolutely to themselves the powers of giving and granting moneys. They not only insist on originating every money bill in their own house, but will not even allow the House of Lords to make an amendment in these bills So tenacious are they of this privilege, so jealous of any infringement of the sole & absolute right the people have to dispose of their own money. And what renders this infringement the more grievous is, that what of our earnings still remains in our own hands is in a great measure deprived of its value, so long as the British Parliament continue to claim and exercise this power of taxing us; for we cannot Justly call that *our* property which *others* may, when they please take away from us against our will. ——

In this respect we are treated with less decency and regard than the Romans shewed even to the Provinces which [**386.**] They had conquered. *They* only determined upon the sum which each should furnish, and left every Province to raise it in the manner most easy and convenient to themselves ——

3d A number of new Officers, unknown in the Charter of this Province, have been appointed to superintend this Revenue, whereas by our Charter the Great & General Court or Assembly of this Province has the sole right of appointing all civil officers, excepting only such officers, the election and constitution of whom is in said charter expressly excepted; among whom these Officers are not included. ——

4th These Officers are by their Commission invested with powers altogether unconstitutional, and entirely destructive to that security which we have a right to enjoy; and to the last degree dangerous, not only to our property; but to our lives: For the Commissioners of his Majestys customs in America, or any three of them, are by their Commission impowered, "by writing under their hands and seales to constitute and appoint inferior Officers in all and singular the Port within the limits of their commissions" Each of these petty officers so made is intrusted with power more absolute and arbitrary than ought to be lodged in the hands of any man or body of men whatsoever; for in the commission aforementioned, his Majesty gives & grants unto his said Commissioners, or any three of them, and to all and every the Collectors Deputy Collectors, Ministers, Servants, and all other Officers serving and attending in all and every the Ports and other places within the limits of their Commission, full power and authority from time to time, at their and any of their wills and pleasures, as well [**387.**] By Night as by day to enter and go on board any Ship, Boat, or other Vessel, riding lying or being within, or coming into any Port, Harbour, Creek or Haven, within the limits of their commission; and also in the day time to go into any house, shop, cellar, or any other place, where any goods wares or merchandizes lie concealed, or are *suspected* to lie concealed, whereof the customs & other duties, have not been, or shall not be, duly paid and truly satisfied, answered or paid unto the Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Ministers, Servants, and other Officers respectively, or otherwise agreed for; and the said house, shop, warehouse, cellar, and other place to search and survey, and all and every the boxes, trunks, chests and packs then and there found to break open." ——

Thus our houses and even our bed chambers, are exposed to be ransacked, our boxes chests & trunks broke open ravaged and plundered by wretches, whom no prudent man would venture to employ even as menial servants; whenever they are pleased to say they *suspect* there are in the house wares &c for which the dutys have not been paid Flagrant instances of the wanton exercise of this power, have frequently happened in this and other sea port Towns. By this we are cut off from that domestick security which renders the lives of the most unhappy in some measure agreable. Those Officers may under colour of law and the cloak of a general warrant, break thro' the sacred rights of the *Domicil*, ransack

mens houses, destroy their securities, carry off their property, and with little danger to themselves commit the most horred murders. ——

And we complain of it as a further grievance, that notwithstanding by the Charter of this Province, the Governor and the Great and General Court or Assembly of this [388.] Province or Territory, for the time being shall have full power and authority, from time to time, to make, ordain and establish all manner of wholesome and reasonable laws, orders, statutes, and ordinances, directions and instructions, and that if the same shall not within the term of three years after presenting the same to his Majesty in privy council be disallowed, they shall be and continue in full force and effect, untill the same shall be repealed by the Great and General Assembly of this Province: Yet the Parliament of Great Britain have rendered or attempted to render, null and void a law of this Province made and passed in the Reign of his late Majesty George the first, intitled "An Act stating the Fees of the Custom-house Officers within this Province" and by meer dint of power, in violation of the Charter aforesaid, established other and exorbitant fees, for the same Officers; any law of the Province to the contrary notwithstanding. ——

5th. Fleets and Armies have been introduced to support these unconstitutional Officers in collecting and managing this unconstitutional Revenue; and troops have been quarter'd in this Metropolis for that purpose. Introducing and quartering standing Armies in a free Country in times of peace without the consent of the people either by themselves or by their Representatives, is, and always has been deemed a violation of their rights as freemen; and of the Charter or Compact made between the King of Great Britain, and the People of this Province, whereby all the rights of British Subjects are confirmed to us. ——

6th. The Revenue arising from this tax unconstitutionally laid, and committed to the management of persons arbitrarily appointed and supported by an armed force quartered in a free [389.] City, has been in part applyed to the most destructive purposes. It is absolutely necessary in a mixt government like that of this Province, that a due proportion or balance of power should be established among the several branches of legislative. Our Ancestors received from King William & Queen Mary a Charter by which it was understood by both parties in the contract, that such a proportion or balance was fixed; and therefore every thing which renders any one branch of the Legislative more independent of the other two than it was originally designed, is an alteration of the constitution as settled by the Charter; and as it has been untill the establishment of this Revenue, the constant practise of the General Assembly to provide for the support of Government, so it is an essential part of our constitution, as it is a necessary means of preserving an *equilibrium*, without which we cannot continue a free state. ——

In particular it has always been held, that the dependence of the Governor of this Province upon the General Assembly for his support, was necessary for the preservation of this *equilibrium;*

nevertheless his Majesty has been pleased to apply fifteen hundred pounds sterling annually out of the American revenue, for the support of the Governor of this Province independent of the Assembly, whereby the ancient connection between him and this people is weakened, the confidence in the Governor lessened and the equilibrium destroyed, and the constitution essentially altered. ——

And we look upon it highly probable from the best intelligence we have been able to obtain, that not only our Governor and Lieuvetenant Governor, but the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature, as also the Kings Attorney and Solicitor General are to receive their support from this [**390.**] Grievous tribute. This will if accomplished compleat our slavery. For if taxes are raised from us by the Parliament of Great Britain without our consent, and the men on whose opinions and decisions our properties liberties and lives, in a great measure depend, receive their support from the Revenues arising from these taxes, we cannot, when we think on the depravity of mankind, avoid looking with horror on the danger to which we are exposed? The British Parliament have shewn their wisdom in making the Judges there as independent as possible both on the Prince and People, both for place and support: But our Judges hold their Commissions only during pleasure; the granting them salaries out of this Revenue is rendering them independent on the Crown for their support. The King upon his first accession to the Throne, for giving the last hand to the independency of the Judges in England, not only upon himself but his Successors by recommending and consenting to an act of Parliament, by which the Judges are continued in office, notwithstanding the demise of a King, which vacates all other Commissions, was applauded by the whole Nation. How alarming must it then be to the Inhabitants of this Province, to find so wide a difference made between the Subjects in Britain and America, as the rendering the Judges here altogether dependent on the Crown for their support. ——

7th. We find ourselves greatly oppressed by Instructions sent to our Governor from the Court of Great Britain, whereby the first branch of our legislature is made merely a ministerial engine. And the Province has already felt such effects from these Instructions, as [**391.**] We think Justly intitle us to say that they threaten an entire destruction of our liberties, and must soon, if not checked, render every branch of our Government a useless burthen upon the people. We shall point out some of the alarming effects of these Instructions which have already taken place. ——

In consequence of Instructions, the Governor has called and adjourned our General Assemblies to a place highly inconvenient to the Members and grately disadvantageous to the interest of the Province, even against his own declared intention ——

In consequence of Instructions, the Assembly has been prorogued from time to time, when the important concerns of the Province required their Meeting ——

In obedience to Instructions, the General Assembly was Anno

1768 dissolved by Governor Bernard, because they would not consent to *rescind* the resolution of a *former* house, and thereby sacrifise the rights of their constituents. ——

By an Instruction, the honourable his Majesty Council are forbid to meet and transact matters of publick concern as a Council of advice to the Governor, unless called by the Governor; and if they should from a zealous regard to the interest of the Province so meet at any time, the Governor is ordered to negative them at the next Election of Councellors. And although by the Charter of this Province the Great & General Court have full power and authority to impose taxes upon the estates and persons of all and every the proprietors and inhabitants of this Province, yet the Governor has been forbidden to give his consent to act imposing a tax for the necessary support of government, unless such persons as were pointed out [**392.**] In the said instruction, were exempted from paying their Just proportion of said tax ——

His Excellency has also pleaded Instructions for giving up the provincial fortress, Castle William into the hands of troops, over whom he had declared he had no controul (and that at a time when they were menaceing the Slaughter of the Inhabitants of the Town, and our Streets were stained with the blood which they had barbariously shed) Thus our Governor, appointed and paid from Great Britain with money forced from us, is made an instrument of totally preventing or at least of rendering, every attempt of the other two branches of the Legislative in favor of a distressed and wronged people: And least the complaints naturally occasioned by such oppression should excite compassion in the Royal breast, and induce his Majesty seriously to set about relieving us from the cruel bondage and insults which we his loyal Subjects have so long suffered, the Governor is forbidden to consent to the payment of an Agent to represent our grievances at the Court of Great Britain, unless he the Governor consent to his election, and we very well knew what *the man must be* to whose appointment a Governor in such circumstances will consent ——

While we are mentioning the infringement of the rights of this Colony in particular by means of Instructions, we cannot help calling to remembrance the late unexampled suspension of the legislative of a Sister Colony, *New York* by force of an Instruction, untill they should comply with an Arbitrary Act of the [**393.**] British Parliament for quartering troops, designed by military execution, to enforce the raising of a tribute. ——

8th. The extending the power of the Courts of Vice Admiralty to so enormous a degree as deprives the people in the Colonies in a great measure of their inestimable right to tryals by *Juries:* which has ever been Justly considered as the grand Bulwark and security of English property.

This alone is sufficient to rouse our jealousy: And we are again obliged to take notice of the remarkable contrast, which the British Parliament have been pleased to exhibit between the Subjects in Great Britain & the Colonies. In the same Statute, by which they give up to the decision of one dependent interested Judge of Admirality the estates and properties of the Colonists, they ex-

pressly guard the estates & properties of the people of Great Britain; for all forfeitures & penalties inflicted by the Statute of George the Third, or any other Act of Parliament relative to the trade of the Colonies, may be sued for in any Court of Admiralty in the Colonies; but all penalties and forfeitures which shall be incurred in great Britain, may be sued for in any of his Majestys Courts of Record in Westminster or in the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, respectively. Thus our Birth Rights are taken from us; and that too with every mark of indignity, insult and contempt. We may be harrassed and dragged from one part of the Continent to the other (which some of our Brethren here and in the Country Towns already have been) and finally be deprived of our whole property, by the arbitrary determination of one biassed, capricious Judge of the Admirality. ——

9th. The restraining us from erecting Stilling Mills for manufacturing our Iron the natural produce of this Country, [**394.**] Is an infringement of that right with which God and nature have invested us, to make use of our skill and industry in procuring the necessaries and conveniences of life. And we look upon the restraint laid upon the manufacture and transportation of Hatts to be altogether unreasonable and grievous. Although by the Charter all Havens Rivers, Ports, Waters &c are expressly granted the Inhabitants of the Province and their Successors, to their only proper use and behoof forever, yet the British Parliament passed an Act, whereby they restrain us from carrying our Wool. the produce of our own farms, even over a ferry; whereby the Inhabitants have often been put to the expence of carrying a Bag of Wool near an hundred miles by land, when passing over a River or Water of one quarter of a mile, of which the Province are the absolute Proprietors, would have prevented all that trouble. ——

10th. The Act passed in the last Session of the British Parliament, intitled, *An Act for the better preserving his Majestys Dock Yards, Magizines, Ships, Ammunition and Stores*, is, as we apprehend a violent infringement of our Rights. By this Act any one of us may be taken from his Family, and carried to any part of Great Britain, there to be tried whenever it shall be pretended that he has been concerned in burning or otherwise destroying any Boat or Vessel, or any Materials for building &c. any Naval or Victualling Store &c. belonging to his Majesty. For by this Act all Persons in the Realm, or in any of the places thereto belonging (under which denomination we know the Colonies are meant to be included) may be indicted and tryed either in any County or Shire within this Realm, in like manner and form as if the offence had been committed in said County, as his Majesty and his Successors may deem [**395.**] Most expedient. Thus we are not only deprived of our grand right to *tryal by our Peers in the Vicinity*, but any Person suspected, or pretended to be suspected, may be hurried to Great Britain, to take his tryal in any County the King or his Successors shall please to direct; where, innocent or guilty he is in great danger of being condemned; and whether condemned or acquitted he will probably be ruined by the expense attending the tryal, and his long absence from his Family and business; and we

have the strongest reason to apprehend that we shall soon experience the fatal effects of this Act, as about the year 1769 the British Parliament passed Resolves for taking up a number of Persons in the Colonies and carrying them to Great Britain for tryal, pretending that they were authorised so to do, by a Statute passed in the Reign of Henry the Eighth, in which they say the Colonies were included, although the Act was passed long before any Colonies were settled, or even in contemplation. ——

11th. As our Ancestors came over to this Country that they might not only enjoy their civil but their religeous rights, and particularly desired to be free from the Prelates, who in those times cruilly persecuted all who differed in sentiment from the established Church; we cannot see without concern the various attempts, which have been made and are now making, to establish an American Episcopate. Our Episcopal Brethren of the Colonies do enjoy, and rightfully ought ever to enjoy, the free exercise of their religeon, we cannot help fearing that they who are so warmly contending for such an establishment, have views altogether inconsistent with the universal and peaceful enjoyment of our christian privileges: And doing or attempting to do any thing which has even the remotest tendency to endanger this enjoyment, is Justly looked upon a great grievance, and also an infringement of our [396.] Rights, which is not barely to exercise, but peaceably & securely to enjoy, that liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. ——

And we are further of Opinion, that no power on Earth can justly give either temporal or spiritual Jurisdiction within this Province, except the Great & General Court. We think therefore that every design for establishing the Jurisdiction of a Bishop in this Province, is a design both against our Civil and Religeous rights: And we are well informed, that the more candid and Judicious of our Brethren of the Church of England in this and the other Colonies, both Clergy and Laity, conceive of the establishing an American Episcopate both unnecessary and unreasonable. ——

12th Another Grievance under which we labour is the frequent alteration of the bounds of the Colonies by decisions before the King and Council, explanatory of former grants and Charters. This not only subjects Men to live under a constitution to which they have not consented, which in itself is a great Grievance; but moreover under color, that the *right of Soil* is affected by such declarations, some Governors, or Ministers, or both in conjunction, have pretended to Grant in consequence of a Mandamus many thousands of Acres of Lands appropriated near a Century past; and rendered valuable by the labours of the present Cultivators and their Ancestors. There are very notable instances of Setlers, who having first purchased the Soil of the Natives, have at considerable expence obtained confermation of title from this Province; and on being transferred to the Jurisdiction of the Province of *New Hampshire* have been put to the trouble and cost of a new Grant or confermation from thence; and after all this there has been a third declaration of Royal Will, that they should thence forth be

considered as pertaining [**397.**] To the Province of *New York*. The troubles, expences and dangers which hundreds have been put to on such occasions, cannot here be recited; but so much may be said, that they have been most cruelly harrassed, and even threatned with a military force, to dragoon them into a compliance, with the most unreasonable demands.

A *Letter* of Correspondence to the other Towns.

Boston November 20: 1772

Gentlemen We the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of *Boston* in Town Meeting duly Assembled, according to Law, apprehending there is abundant to be alarmed at the plan of *Despotism*, which the enemies of our invaluable rights have concerted, is rapidly hastening to a completion, can no longer conceal our impatience under a constant, unremitted, uniform aim to enslave us, or confide in an Administration which threatens us with certain and inevitable destruction. But, when in addition to the repeated inroads made upon the Rights and Liberties of the Colonists, and of those in this Province in particular, we reflect on the late extraordinary measure in affixing stipends or Salaries from the Crown to the Offices of the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature, making them not only intirely independent of the people, whose lives and properties are so much in their power, but absolutely dependent on the Crown (which may hereafter, be worn by a *Tyrant*) both for their appointment and support, we cannot but be extremely alarmed at the mischievous tendency of this innovation; which in our opinion is directly contrary to the spirit of the British Constitution, pregnant with innumerable evils, and hath a direct tendency [**398.**] To deprive us of every thing valuable as Men, as Christians and as Subjects, entitled, by the Royal Charter, to all the Rights, liberties and privileges of native Britons. Such being the critical state of this Province, we think it our duty on this truly distressing occasion, to ask you, What can withstand the Attacks of mere power? What can preserve the liberties of the Subject, when the Barriers of the Constitution are taken away? The Town of Boston consulting on the matter above mentioned, thought proper to make application to the Governor by a Committee; requesting his Excellency to communicate such intelligence as he might have received relative to the report of the Judges having their support independent of the grants of this Province a Copy of which you have herewith in Paper N. 1. To which we received as answer the Paper N. 2. The Town on further deliberation, thought it advisable to refer the matter to the Great and General Assembly; and accordingly in a second address as N. 3 they requested his Excellency that the General Court might Convene at the time to which they then stood prorogued; to which the Town received the reply as in N. 4. in which we are acquainted with his intentions further to prorogue the General Assembly, which has since taken place. Thus Gentlemen it is evident his Excellency declines giving the least satisfaction as to the matter in request. The affair being of publick concernment, the Town of Boston thought it necessary to

consult with their Brethren throughout the Province; and for this purpose appointed a Committee, to communicate with our fellow Sufferers, respecting this recent instance of oppression. as well as the many other violations of our Rights under which we have groaned for several Years past — This Committee have briefly [399.] Recapitulated the sense we have of our invaluable Rights as Men, as Christians, and as Subjects; and wherein we conceive those Rights to have been violated, which we are desirous may be laid before your Town, that the subject may be weighed as its importance requires, and the collected wisdom of the whole People, as far as possible, be obtained, on a deliberation of such great and lasting moment as to involve in it the fate of all our Posterity — Great pains has been taken to perswade the British Administration to think that the good People of this Province in general are quiet and undisturbed at the late measures; and that any uneasiness that appears, arises from a few factious designing and disaffected men. This renders it the more necessary, that the sense of the People should be explicitly declared. — A free communication of your sentiments to this Town, of our common danger, is earnestly solicited and will be gratefully received. If you concur with us in opinion, that our Rights are properly stated, and that the several Acts of Parliament, and Measures of Administration, pointed out by us are subversive of these Rights, you will doubtless think it of the utmost importance that we stand firm as one man, to recover and support them; and to take such measures by directing our Representatives, or otherwise, as your wisdom and fortitude shall dictate, to rescue from impending ruin our happy and glorious constitution. But if it should be the general voice of this Province, that the Rights as we have stated them, do not belong to us; or that the several measures of Administration in the British Court, are no violations of these Rights, or that if they are thus violated or infringed, they are not worth contending for, or resolutely maintaining; — should this be the general voice of the [400.] Province, we must be resigned to our wretched fate; but shall forever lament the extinction of that generous ardor for Civil and Religeous liberty, which in the face of every danger, and even death itself, induced our fathers to forsake the bosom of their Native Country, and begin a settlement on bare Creation — But we trust this cannot be the case: We are sure your wisdom, your regard to yourselves and the rising Generation, cannot suffer you to dose, or set supinely indifferent on the brink of destruction, while the Iron hand of oppression is dayly tearing the choicest Fruit from the fair Tree of Liberty, planted by our worthy Predecessors, at the expence of their treasure, & abundantly wate'rd with their blood — It is an observation of an eminent Patriot, that a People long inured to hardships, loose by degrees the very notions of liberty; they look upon themselves as Creatures *at mercy*, and that all impositions laid on by superior hands, are legal and obligatory. — But thank Heaven this is not yet verified in *America!* We have yet some share of publick virtue remaining: we are not afraid of poverty, but disdain slavery. — The fate of Nations is so Precarious and resolutions in States so

often take place at an unexpected moment, when the hand of power by fraud or flattery, has secured every Avenue of retreat, and the minds of the Subject debased to its purpose, that it becomes every will wisher to his Country, while it has any remains of freedom, to keep an Eagle Eye upon every inovation and stretch of power, in those that have the rule over us. A recent instance of this we have in the late Revolutions in *Sweden*, by which the Prince once subject to the laws of the State, has been able of a sudden to declare himself an absolute Monarch The Sweeds were once a free, martial and valient people: [**401.**] Their minds are now so debaced, that they rejoice at being subject to the caprice and arbitrary power of a Tyrant & kiss their Chains. It makes us shudder to think, the late measures of Administration may be productive of the like Catastrophe; which Heaven forbid! — Let us consider Brethren, we are struggling for our best Birth Rights & Inheritance; which being infringed, renders all our blessings precarious in their enjoyments, and consequently triffling in their value. Let us disappoint the Men who are raising themselves on the ruin of this Country. Let us convince every Invader of our freedom, that we will be as free as the Constitution our Fathers recognized, will Justify. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 5th. Day of March Anno Domini 1773 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - read ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hamshire, and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province ——

[**402.**] The Committee appointed by the Town the 5th. of March last, to apply to a proper Gentleman, to deliver an Oration 5th. of March Instant to perpetuate the memory of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of March 1770 — by a Party of Soldiers under the Order and Eye of Capt. Thomas Preston of the 29th. Regiment - - - - - - - Reported

"That they had met together Several times for the purposes mentioned in the Towns Vote and that they had unanimously chosen Dr. Benjamin Church to deliver an Oration for the purposes mentioned in said Vote, who had accordingly accepted of that service" ——

The above Report having been read, the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative, unanimously. ——

Upon a Motion made the Town took into Consideration the Time when it would be best to have the Oration pronounced, as also what place would be most suitable for the purpose — whereupon ——

Voted, that the Oration be delivered ¾ past 12 O'Clock at the Old South Meeting House the Hall not being thought capacious enough to receive the Inhabitants that would probably attend; and the Committee of that Society having upon application consented, that the House should be made use of on this occasion ——

Voted, that Dr. Joseph Warren
The Honble. James Otis Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.

be a Committee to wait upon Dr. Benjamin Church and acquaint him; that it is the desire of the Town that the [**403.**] Oration may be delivered at the Old South Meeting House at three quarters past 12. O'Clock, this Forenoon ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to the Old South Meeting House, three quarters past 12. O'Clock this Forenoon ——

The Town met according to Adjournment at the Old South Meeting House at ¾ past 12. O'Clock A : M : ——

The Committee appointed to wait upon Dr. Church to acquaint him with the Vote of the Town respecting the time and place for the delivery of an Oration — Reported, that said Gentleman, was ready to comply with the Orders of the Town, made known to him by their Committee ——

An ORATION to commemorate the horred Massacre of the 5th. of March 1770 and to impress upon the Minds of the Citizens the ruinous tendency of standing Armies being placed in Free and Populous Cities &c. was delivered by Dr. Benjamin Church to a large and crowded Audience, and received by them with great applause ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Dr. Benjamin Church for the Elegant and spirited Oration delivered by him at their request in commemoration of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770. by a Party of Soldiers of the 29. Regiment under the Command of Capt. Thomas Preston — also

Voted, that the Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Honble. James Otis Esq.
[**404.**] Mr. Samuel Adams
John Scollay Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Mr. William Dennie
Collo. Thomas Marshall

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon Dr. Benjamin Church, and in the name of the Town to request of him a Copy of the said Oration for the Press

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Mr. William Mollineux
Honble. Thomas Cushing
Dr. Benjamin Church
Dr. Joseph Warren

The Honble. James Otis Esq.
M^r. James Lovel
Samuel Pemberton Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March next to perpetuate the memory of the horred Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5. of March 1770 by a Party of Soldiers of the 29. Regiment under the Command of Capt. Thomas Preston; and to impress upon our minds the ruinous tendency of standing Armies being placed in Free and Populous Cities; and the necessity of such noble exertions in all future times, as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the designs of the Conspirators against the publick liberty, may be still frustrated ——

Thanks Voted unanimously to the Moderator

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[**405.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 8th. Day of March Anno Domini 1773 ——

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Pemberton ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - read ——

Sundry laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly, read ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province. ——

M^r. William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island; took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were administred to him by M^r. Justice Hill ——

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen and the Votes being brought in and sorted, it appeared that

The Honble John Hancock Esq.
John Scollay Esq.
M^r. Timothy Newell
Coll^o. Thomas Marshall
M^r. Samuel Austin
M^r. Oliver Wendell
[**406.**] M^r. John Pitts

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barrett Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
M^r. Benjamin Dolbear
M^r. William Whitwell
M^r. William Greanleaff

William White Esq.
John Leveret Esq.
John Gore Esq.
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Mr. Samuel Whitwell
Mr. Samuel Abbot
Mr. Daniel Waldo

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. Edward Payne - - - (excused)
Ezekiel Cheever Esq.
Mr. Samuel Hews
Mr. John Copely - - - - - - - (dº)
Arnold Wells Esq. - - - - - - (dº)
Mr. James Twing
Mr. Nathaniel Cary
Capt. Caleb Hopkins
Capt. Edward Procter
Mr. Gibbins Sharp
Mr. Peter Boyer ——
Capt. Benjamin Cobb ——

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing ——

see Page.

[407.] The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards and upon sorting them it appeared that ——

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Grenough Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
Mr. John Mico Wendell
Thomas Marshall Esq.
Mr. Joseph Tyler
Adino Paddock Esq.
Mr. James Richardson - - - - (excused)
Capt. Benjamin Waldo
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams ——
Capt. Martin Gay
Francis Shaw Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill
Capt. Job Prince
Capt. Edward Procter ——

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing - - - -

see Page

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the choice of a County Treasurer be referred to 4 O'Clock P: M:——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock in the Afternoon ——

3 O'Clock, P: M: Town met according to Adjournment

The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer and upon sorting them it appeared, that Mr. David Jeffries was chosen, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and

receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty ——

[408.] Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was put — "Whether Constables and Collectors of Taxes shall be chose separate" - - - Passed in the Affermative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pounds fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing and shall decline Serving ——

A Motion was made that there should be only one Constable now chosen, and that the choice of the others should be referred to the Adjournment; and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative ——

Messrs. Thomas Love
Cyrus Baldwin
Richard Salter
John Tayler
John Winthrop
James Cazneau
James Sethrigg
William Pitts
Robert Ruggles
Joseph Coolidge
John Kneeland
John Barret Junr. - - - - - (excused)

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing

see Page

Mr. John Gray

was chosen a Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing in the room of Mr. Henderson Inches, who was first chosen but excused by the Town ——

Messrs. William Nichols
Andrew Symms
[409.] William Nichols
Clement Collins
Henry Allen
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
Richard Walker
John Champney
John Bulfinch
Abraham Howard
Joseph Buller
Joseph Ayres
Thomas Bayley
Andrew Townsend
Joseph Ballard
John Holland
John Rogers
Edmund Ranger
Thomas Uran

Elisha Holmes
Obediah Low
Benjamin Page
Clement Collins Junr.
Direly Wing
Henry Blaisdell
Abraham Rogers

were chose Surveyers of Boards for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. John Joy
Obediah Low
Samuel Dyer
William Crafts

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing ——

[410.] Messrs Samuel Bangs
Joseph Clark
Daniel Parks
Benjamin Bass
Thomas Noland

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs William Daws Junr
Thomas Edes

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs Peter Cotta
Manasah Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Harskins
David Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Job Wheelwright
Joshua Pico
Benjamin Salt
Paul Baxter
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White
Edward Cowell
Peter Ellis
Timothy Pease
Nathaniel Waterman
Jacob Williams
Samuel Bernard
John Nowell
Henry Lucas
Caleb Hayden
James Bernard
[411.] Richard Flood
William Rogers
Samuel Peck

were chose Collectors of Staves for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs: David Simins
William McFadden
were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing ——
Mr Thomas Smith
was chosen a Hayward for the Year ensuing ——

		Wards.	
Messrs:	Josiah Vose	1	
	Joseph Snelling	2	
	Caleb Champney	3	
	Francis Pulcifer	4	
	James Thompson	5	
	Samuel Bradstreet	6	(excused)
	Charles Perren	7	
	John Langdon	8	
	Samuel Warden	9	
	John Fullerton	10	
	Thomas Chase	11	
	Benjamin Wheeler	12	

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing ——

see Page 9.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables, the Persons chose into that Office are

Messrs: Augustus Hail
Hezekiah Usher
George Thomas
Samuel Greanleaff
John Hammatt
Elias Dupee
[412.] John Wells
John Coverley
Stephen Symms
John Bennet
Joseph Foye

see Page

John Tudor Esq
Mr John Lucas
were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing.
Capt Martin Gay
Mr John Skinner
were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing.
Coll^o Joseph Jackson
Coll^o John Leveret
Mr John Sweetser
were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, & they are desired and empowered to give all needful direction to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the quantity of Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require; And the said Committee are desired and directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be ground at the New Mills near the Mill Bridge, now occupied by Mr George Leonard ——

The Selectmen
chosen Surveyors of the High Ways for the Year ensuing ——

Votes, for a County Treasurer, brought in & being sealed up in Town Meeting, were delivered to Mr Constable Bennet, for him to deliver to the Court of Sessions ——

[**413.**] The Selectmen Reported on the Accompt of Mr Benjamin Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Accompt as enter'd in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read — whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted and that Mr Fenno be accountable to the Town for 70. Bushels of Corn, and 16 ditto of Rye amounting to £18 ,, 5 ,, 4. and also for the sum of £185 ,, 19 ,, 3 Cash now in his hands exclusive of the Sum of £32 ,, 13 ,, 4. for his Salary and attendance as charged in his Account, which is hereby allowed him ——

The Committee appointed to consider of the expediency of fixing Lamps in this Town having met several times and taken the same into consideration beg leave to Report — That for the convenience and safety of the Inhabitants and their Property it would be adviseable for the Town to have 300 — Street Lamps fixt in commodious places to be hereafter determined ——

The Committee Judge, that each Lamp with the charge of Erecting the same will cost about thirty Shillings ——

That the Annual consumption of Oyle will be about 10 Gallons to a Lamp, which at the present price of Oyle, with the Wick Yarn attendance and repairs, will cost about thirty six Shillings ——

As to ways and means for defreying the charge it is recommended to the Town to appoint a Committee to procure Subscriptions for the first cost of the Lamps, if this should meet with due encouragement: It is recommended that an application be made to the General Court for a Law obliging the Inhabitants of this Town to pay a certain yearly rate for every Wheel Carriage they own, and impowering the Town Treasurer to receive of every Inholder and Retailer of Spirituous Liquors and Vendue Masters a certain sum when they renew their Licenses [**414.**] From these Funds it is imagined the Expence may be defreyed — All which is submitted ——

JOHN ROWE ℔ Order.

The foregoing Report having been read and considered — the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted" — Passed in the Affermative ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that - - -
Mr. James Richardson
Mr. Edward Payde
Mr. Daniel Hubbard
Mr. Caleb Davis
Mr. Robert Peirpoint
Mr. William Bant
Mr. Philip Dumaresque

Mr. Henry Hill
Mr. Peter Johonnot
Mr. John Ballard
Capt. William Mackay
Capt. John Bradford

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to procure Subscriptions for the first cost of the Lamps.

Upon a Motion made Voted, that ——

The Representatives of the Town &
The Gentlemen the Selectmen

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to make application to the General Court for a law obliging the Inhabitants of this Town to pay a certain Yearly rate for every Wheel Carriage they own, and impowering the Town Treasurer to receive of every Inholder and Retailer of Spirituous Liquors and Vendue Masters, a [**415.**] Certain Sum when they receive their Licenses, as a Fund to support the Expence of keeping and supplying three hundred Lamps in this Town ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. John Kneeland
Mr. Benjamin Church
Belcher Noyes Esq.
Mr. Daniel Pecker
Mr. Jonathan Brown
Gyles Harris Esq.
Capt. Samuel Downe

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is impowered and directed to borrow on Interest a Sum not exceeding Four hundred pounds lawful Money for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Almshouse ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and impower'd to give his negotiable Notes upon Interest to such of the Overseers of the Poor, as are in advance for the relief of the Town, for such sums as appear to be due them respectively upon the Auditing of their Accounts to the present Month. ——

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed to set for Abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Wednesday untill the last Wednesday in April inclusive and no longer saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November, for the [**416.**] Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying the above limitted time by reason of their being out of the Province; at which Time They are also allowed and impower'd to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April and the last Day of November. ——

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants "that Hog Alley may be disposed of or some method taken to carry off the filth

and waste Water which greatly incommodes the Abuttors." was read and considered, whereupon ——

Voted, that Benjamin Kent Esq.
Mr. Robert Peirpoint
Samuel Swift Esq.
Mr. Thomas Chase
Mr. Thomas Bayler

be a Committee to consider the Petition view the Premisses and examine into the Title of the Town to said Alley, and Report their Opinion at the Adjournment ——

The Petition of Mr. Joseph Russell " that the Town would sell him a small peice of the Land, adjoining to his House and Land in Queen Street." was read, whereupon ——

Voted, that The Selectmen be a Committee to consider the Petition, and Report their Opinion at the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday next. 9. O'Clock. A: M:

Tuesday 9. March, 9 O'Clock Met according to Adjournment.

[417.] Mr. Joseph Loring

was chosen a Scavinger for Ward N°. 6 in the room of Mr. Samuel Bradstreet ——

Voted, That Mr. Edward Payne
Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Thomas Dawes Esq.
Capt. John Bradford

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoined to inspect every particular Accompt of the Moneys expended for the use of the Almshouse; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accompts to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance Money for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such sums from the time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accompts; And they are also desired to Report from time to time a state of the Treasury respecting the Debts and Credits, and on any matters that they may think proper. ——

Voted, that the Sum of twelve Pence on the pound be & hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect; provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the tenth Day of August 1774. Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums as they shall have so paid into said Treasuries on or before the 20. Day of December 1774. And four Pence on the Pound upon the remainder of the sums they shall be obliged to Collect, provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the second Monday in March 1775 — This Premium as above expressed appears to be Just & equitable & an ample allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to [418.] Discharge their duty with diligence and fidelity; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with

sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office; and complying with this Vote ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

Messrs: Edward Hollyday
Abraham Savage
Benjamin Henderson
Benjamin Gray

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing ——

Voted, that the consideration of Schoolmasters Salarys and all other Salaries and Grants be referred over to next May Meeting ——

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants, "that a Watch House may be Erected at the Westerly part of the Town and a suitable Watch be appointed" was read and considered, whereupon — Voted, that the Prayer of the Petition be granted and that the Selectmen be directed to Erect a Watch-house on some suitable place at New Boston, and to appoint a proper Watch for the same ——

The Petition of Capt Edward Jarvis, "that his tax for the Year 1760. may be abated him for reasons therein mentioned" was read, whereupon ——

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take the same into consideration and Report at the Adjournment the true state of the matter respecting the Abatements ——

[419.] The Petition of Mr. Samuel Holbrook Master of the Writing School in the Common "that some Relief may be afforded him for Reasons set forth in his Petition." was read, whereupon Voted, that the Consideration thereof be referred over to May Meeting

The Petition of Mr. John Fenno Usher of the aforesaid School "that his Salary may be augmented for Reasons therein offered"— was read, and the consideration thereof referred over to May Meeting ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt "Of the Request of a number of the Inhabitants to consider what is proper to be done to vindicate the Town from the gross misrepresentations and groundless charges in his Excellencys Messages to both Houses, respecting the Proceedings of the Town at their last Meeting" — was read — whereupon

Voted, that Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr. Joseph Warren
Dr. Benjamin Church
Joseph Greanleaff Esq.
Samuel Swift. Esq.

be a Committee to take this Article into Consideration, and Report at the Adjournment ——

Benjamin Kent Esq.
James Otis Esq.
Dr. Thomas Young, see above

A proposal of Mr. William Whitwell and others was introduced and read, and considerable debate had thereon, but as it was not inserted in the Warrant for this Meeting, no Motion was made thereon ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To know the mind [420.] Of the Inhabitants whether it will not be for the safety & preservation of the Town, that Pumps be fixed at the Mill Bridge and Draw Bridge, or some other places to be used in times of Fire" was read whereupon Voted, that

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. William Whitwell
John Barret Esq.
John Tuder Esq.

be a Committee to consider of this matter, and Report at the Adjournment ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt — "To consider the Request of a number of the Inhabitants, that Sea Street may be thoroughly repaired," — was read, and after some Debate Voted, that ——

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.
Mr. William Whitwell
Mr. John Sweetser
Mr. Robert Peirpoint

be a Committee to take this Matter into consideration, to enquire what the Proprietors on that Street are obliged to do by their Grants, and to Report as soon as may be ——

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants — "That a new Street may be laid out from the end of Union Street across Friend Street, and through the Lands of Capt. Andrews and others, laid waste by the late Fire so as to strike upon Sudbury Street" was read, whereupon ——

Voted that Jonathan Williams Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
John Tuder Esq.
Thomas Gray Esq.
[421.] Mr. Henderson Inches

be a Committee to take the same into consideration, and Report at the Adjournment ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "To consider the Request of the Fire-Wards, that a number of Leather Buckets may be provided for each Engine" was read & considered whereupon Voted, that the Fire Ward be and they hereby are desired and impowered to provide Six Leather Buckets for each Fire Engine ——

The Petition of Mr. Gowen Brown "That the Clock now placed upon the Old South Church Steeple may be purchased for a publick Clock" was read, whereupon Voted that ——

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. Timothy Newell
Mr. John Sweetser
Mr. John Pitts
Thomas Daws Esq.

be a Committee to take the same into consideration and Report at the Adjournment

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday the 23d. of March Instant 9. O'Clock A: M: And the Meeting was accordingly Adjourned ——

Tuesday the 23d. of March 9. O'Clock A: M: Town Met according to Adjournment ——

Mr. Edward Payne chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing, having desired to be excused from serving in that office, as a lameness occasioned by a wound received on the [422.] Fifth of March 1770. rendered him unable to discharge this Duty, he was accordingly excused by the Town

The Town brought in their Votes for one Constable and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. William Todd

was chosen a Constable for the Year ensuing ——

Mr. James Richardson chosen one of the Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing, having desired to be excused from serving in that Office, he was accordingly excused ——

Mr. James Richardson Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Town to procure Subscriptions to the amount of the first cost of the Lamps Voted to be purchased being unable to attend the Meeting — Mr. Edward Payne one of said Committee Reported — "That altho' they were not able to make a full Report they could notwithstanding acquaint the Town, that they had proceeded so far in the business enjoined them, as now to give it as their opinion, that they should be able to obtain the Sum wanted for the purpose aforesaid" — whereupon it was Voted, that the consideration of the Report of the Committee relative to the Lamps should be referred to the next Day 11. O'Clock. A: M:

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Mr. Joseph Russell, "That the Town would sell him a small peice of the Land Adjoining to his House and Land in Queen Street." Reported as their opinion, that it would not be for the interest of the Town to dispose of said Land — And the Question being put — Whether [423.] Said Report shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Assessors of the Town of Boston, a Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Capt. Robert Jarvis "That his tax for the Year 1760 may be abated him" Reported "That the said Robert Jarvis being desired to give his attendance was informed that on his application to the Assessors of said Town there had been a consideration made him, which he said he never knew of, otherwise he should not have applyed to the Town, and according he paid the aforesaid tax to Mr. Robert Peirpoint the Collector." — which Report was accepted by the Town ——

Mr. Samuel Adams acquainted the Moderator, that he was directed by a Committee of which he was Chairman to make a Report; and the same was read as follows. Vizt. ——

"The Committee appointed to consider what is proper to be done to vindicate the Town from the gross misrepresentations and

groundless charges in his Excellencies Messages to both Houses of the General Assembly respecting the proceedings of the Town at their last Meeting beg leave to Report ——

"That having carefully looked over the several speeches of the Governor of the Province to the Council and House of Representatives, in the last Session of the General Assembly, they find that his Excellency has plainly *insinuated;*

First, that the said Meeting of the Town was illegal in *itself*—

"Secondly that the points therein determined were [**424.**] Such as the Law gives the Inhabitants of Towns in their Corporate capasities no power to act upon, & therefore that the Proceedings of said Meeting were against Law, And,

"Thirdly that the Inhabitants thus Assembled advanced and afterwards, published to the World such principles as have a direct tendency to alienate the Affections of the People from their Sovereign. And he plainly asserts that "they denied in the most express terms the supremicy of Parliament, and invited every other Town and District in the Province to adopt the same Principles" ——

"We have therefore thought it necessary to recur to the methods taken for calling said Meeting And we find that three Petitions were preferred to the Selectmen signed by 198 respectable Inhabitants making mention of a Report that then prevailed and which since appears to have been well grounded, that Salaries were allowed to be paid to the Justices of the Superior Court of the Province by Order of the Crown; whereby they were to be made totally independent of the General Assembly and absolutely dependent on the Crown: And setting forth their apprehensions that such an establishment would give a finishing stroke to the system of tyranny already began, and compleat the ruin of the liberties of the People. And therefore earnestly requesting the Selectmen to call a Meeting that this matter might be duly considered by the Town, and such measures taken as the necessity and importance thereof required. Whereupon the Selectmen issued a Warrant for calling a Meeting accordingly: And which was [**425.**] Strictly agreable to the Laws of this Province, and the practice of this and other Towns from the earliest times ——

"By an Act of this Province made in the fourth of William & Mary, it is enacted that, "when and so often as there shall be occasion of a Town Meeting of any business of publick concernment to the Town there to be done, the Constable or Constables of such Town by order of the Selectmen, or the major part of them, or the Town Clerk by their order, in each respective Town within the Province shall warn a Meeting of such Towns." And by another Act made in the 2^{d}. George I. it is enacted, "that when and so often as ten or more of the Freeholders, shall signify under their hands to the Selectmen, their desire to have any matter or thing inserted into a Warrant for calling a Town Meeting, the Selectmen are hereby required to insert the Same in the next Warrant they shall issue for the calling a Town Meeting" ——

"But were there no such laws of the Province or should our Enemies pervert these and other laws made for the same purpose, from their plain and obvious intent and meaning, still there is the

great and perpetual law of self preservation, to which every natural Person or Corporate Body hath an inherent right to recur. This being the law of the Creator, no human law can be of force against it: And indeed it is an absurdity to suppose that any such law could be made by common consent, which alone gives validity to Human laws. If then the "*matter or thing*"— Viz^{t}. the fixing Salaries to the Offices of the Judges of the Superior Court as aforesaid, was such as threatened the lives, liberties and propertys of the People which we have the authority of the greatest Assembly of the Province to affirm; the Inhabitants of this or any other Town, had certainly an uncontrovertible right to meet together, either in the manner the law has prescribed, or in any other orderly manner, Jointly to consult the necessary means of their own [**426.**] Preservation and safety. The Petitioners wisely chose the rule of the Province law by applying to the Selectmen for a Meeting; and they as it was their duty to do, followed the same rule and called a Meeting accordingly. We are therefore not a little surprised, that his Excellency speaking of this and other principal Towns, should descend to such an artful use of words; that "a "*number of Inhabitants* have assembled together, and having *assumed* the name of a legal Town Meeting" &c. thereby appearing to have a design to lead an inattentive reader to believe, that no regard was had to the laws of the Province, in calling these Meetings, and consequently to consider them as illegal & disorderly ——

"The Inhabitants being met and for the purpose aforesaid the points determined his Excellency says "were such as the law gives the Inhabitants of Towns in their Corporate Capasity no power to act upon." It would be a sufficient Justification of the Town to say, that no law *forbids* the Inhabitants of Towns in their Corporate capasities to determine such points as were then determined. And if there was no positive legal restraint upon their conduct it was doing them an essential injury, to represent it to the world as *illegal*. Where the law makes no special provision for the common safety, the People have a right to consult their own preservation; and the necessary means to withstand a most dangerous attack of Arbitrary power, At such a time it is but a pitiful objection to their thus doing, that the Law has not expressly given them a power to act upon such points. This is the very language of Tyranny: And when such objections are offered to prevent the Peoples Meeting together in a time of publick danger, it affords of itself Just grounds of Jealousy, that a plan is laid for their Slavery ——

[**427.**] The Town entered upon an enquiry into the Grounds of a report, in which the common safety was very greatly interested. They made their application to the Governor, a *Fellow Citizen* as well as the first Majestrate of the Province: But they were informed by his Excellency that "it was by no means proper for him" to acquaint *them* whether he had or had not received any advices relating to the publick affairs of the Government of the Province" There next determination was to Petition the Governor, that the General Assembly might be allowed

to meet at the time to which it then stood prorogued: But his Excellency refused to grant this request least it should be "encouraging the Inhabitants of other Towns to Assemble," to consider of the necessity or expediency of a Session of the General Assembly." Hithertoo the Town had determined upon no point but only that of petitioning the Governor: And will his Excellency or any one else affirm, that the Inhabitants of this or any other Town, have not a right in their Corporate capasity to petition for a Session of the General Assembly, merely because the law of this Province, that authorizes Towns to Assemble does not expressly make *that* the business of a Town Meeting.

It is the declaration of the Bill of Rights founded in reason that it is the right of the Subject to Petition the King: And it appears in his Excellencys answer, that the Inhabitants of this Town were in effect denied in one instance at least the right of petitioning his Majestys Representative. Which was the more grievous to them, because the prayer of their petition was nothing more, than that the General Assembly might have the opportunity of enquiring of the Governor into the grounds of the report of an intollerable grievance which his Excellency had before strongly intimated to them, it was not in his power to inform *them of*, "consistent with fidelity to the trust which his Majesty had reposed in him" ——

[**428.**] "We have been the more particular in reciting the transactions of that Meeting thus far, in order that the propriety and necessity of the further proceedings of the same Meeting may appear in a true point of light

"His Excellency having thus frowned upon the reasonable Petitions of the Town; and they having the strongest apprehensions, that in addition to or rather in consequence of other Grievances not redressed, a mortal wound would very soon be given to the Civil Constitution of the Province and having no assurance of the timely interposition of the General Assembly, to whose wisdom they were earnestly solicitous to refer the whole matter; the Town thought it expedient to state as far as they were able the Rights of the Colonists, and of this Province, to enumerate the infringements on those Rights, and in a Circular Letter to each of the Towns and Districts in the Province to submit the same to their consideration: That the Subject might be weighed as its importance required, and the collected wisdom of the whole People as far as possible obtained. At the same time *not* "calling upon" those Towns and Districts, "to adopt their principles" as his Excellency in one of his Speeches afferms; but only informing them that "a free communication of their sentiments to this Town of our common danger, was earnestly solicited and would be gratefully received. We may Justly affirm that the Town had a right at that Meeting to communicate their sentiments of matters which so nearly concerned the publick liberty and consequently their own preservation. They were matters to use the words of the Province Law of "publick concernment" to this and every other Town, and every Individual in the Province: Any attempt therefore to obstruct the channel of publick [**429.**] Intelligence in this way,

argues in our opinion a design to keep the People in ignorance of their danger, that they may be the more easily and speedily inslaved ——

It is notorious to all the World, that the liberties of this Continent and especially of this Province have been *systimatically*, and successfully invaded from step to step. It is not then to say the least, Justifiable in any Towns as *being part of the great whole*, when the last effort of Tyranny is about to be made, to spread the earliest notice of it far and wide, and hold up the *iniquitous* System in full view. It is a great satisfaction to us, that so many of the respectable Towns in the Province, and we may add Gentlemen of figure in other Colonies, have expressed and continue to express themselves much pleased with the measure: And we encourage ourselves, that from the *manifest discovery* of an union of sentiments, in this Province, which has been one happy fruit of it, there will be the united efforts of *the whole* in all constitutional and proper methods to prevent the entire ruin of our liberties ——

"His Excellency is pleased to say in one of his Speeches that the Town have "denied in the most express terms the Supremicy of Parliament" —It is fortunate for the Town, that they made choice of the very mode of expression which the present House of Representatives in their wisdom made use of in settling the matters of controversy between the Governor and them. And after what they have advanced upon the Subject, it appears to us impossible to be shown that the Parliament of Great Britain can exercise the "power of legislation for the Colonists in all cases whatever," consistently with the right that belongs to the Colonists as Men, as Christians & as Subjects; or without destroying the foundation of their own Constitution [**430.**] If the assertion that the Parliament hath no right to exercise a power in cases where it is plain they have no right, hath a direct tendency to alienate the affections of the People from their Sovereign, because he is a constituent part of that Parliament which seems to be his Excellencies manner of reasoning, it follows as we conceive that there must never be a complaint of any assumption of power in the Parliament, or petition for repeal of any law made repugnant to the Constitution least it should tend to alienate the affections of the People from their Sovereign. But we have a better opinion of our fellow Subjects then to concede to such conclusions. We are assured they can clearly see that a mistake in principle may be consistent with integrity of heart; & for our parts we shall ever be inclined to attribute the Grievances of various kinds which his Majestys American Subjects have so long suffered, to the weakness or wickedness of his Ministers and Servants, and not to any disposition in *him* to injure them. And we yet perswade ourselves that could the Petitions of his much aggrieved Subjects be transmitted to his Majesty, through the hands of an honest impartial Minister, we should not fail of ample Redress ——

"His Excellencys Argument seems to us to be rather strained, when he is attempting to shew that we have "invited every other

Town and District to adopt our Principles." It is this the Town says "if it should be the general voice of the Province, that the Rights as stated do not belong to them (trusting however that this cannot be the case) they shall lament the extinction of ardour of Civil & Religeous liberty.; *therefore* says his Excellency, the Town invited to adopt their principles! Could it possibly be supposed that when his Excellency had declared to the whole Province, that [**431.**] We had invited every other Town and District in this Province to adopt the same principles, he intended to avail himself of such an explanation! Much the same way of reasoning follows — Tho' it would not be to the reputation of the other Towns if it should have any weight.) That because their consequent doings were similar to those of this Town, *therefore* they understood y^{t}. they were invited to *adopt* the same principles, and *therefore* they were thus invited to adopt them. ——

Upon the whole there can be no room to doubt, but that every Town which has thought it expedient to Correspond with this on the occasion, have acted *their own* Judgement & expressed *their own* sentiments & principles: It is an unspeakable satisfaction to us, that their sentiments so nearly accord with ours; and it adds a dignity to our proceedings, that when the House of Representatives were called upon by the Governor to bear their testimony against them, as of a "dangerous nature & tendency *they* saw reason to declare" — that they had not discovered that the Principles advanced by the Town of Boston were unwarrantable by the Constitution ——

The foregoing Report was accepted by the Town *nemine contradicente.* and Ordered to be Recorded on the Towns Book, as the sense of the Inhabitants of this Town ——

Voted, that the said Report be printed in the several News Papers, and that the Committee of Correspondence be directed to transmit a printed Copy thereof to such Towns and Districts as they have or may Correspond with ——

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of a number of Inhabitants "that Hog Alley may be disposed of or some method taken to carry off the filth and waste Water which greatly incommodes the Abutters" — to view the Premisses and to examine into the Title of the Town to said Alley and to Report [**432.**] At the Adjournment — gave in the following Report ——

That in pursuance of their trust they have viewed Hog Alley, and the Land Adjoining and near the same, and find that said Alley now is and many years past has been a great Nusance to the Abutters and many others; the Committee also find that it has been occasioned by the alteration of the old natural course of the Water which used to run from Beacon Hill down to the Gate entering into the Common a little below Sheriff Greanleaff's Garden, or near to it, and that from thence there was a large Water course running down and terminating in a Pond which bears near South of Frog Pond. ——

The Committee further Report that on the 22^{d}. of September 1701. the Selectmen were impowered to affix & assign Names to the several Streets And Lanes in this Town, and on the Spring of the

Year 1708. having taken such Account Hog Alley is mentioned among the rest and by the Town Recorded but we do not find that Hog Alley was ever given or sold to the Town or any wise claimed by the Town or as a Town way; for in the Year 1702 there was no such Alley, and one Durant then sold to Thomas Blin (under whom Messrs. Brimmers Claim) a p'cll of Land part of said Durants Pasture lying to the North of his Message called the Lamb and bounds his Grant Southerly upon his own Land from Newbury Street to the Common we also find that the strip of Land called Hog Alley was left out of said Blins own Land (as we suppose for his own convenience) and that that Alley way was left out as aforesaid between the Years 1702 & 1708. so that the Committee are further of opinion that the only proper as well as the cheapest way to carry the Water from against Winter Street to the said Gate or near it, is to continue the paved Gutter next the Mall opposite to Winter Street down to or near the Gate aforesaid, and there to conduct [**433.**] The Water under a Stone Bridge three feet wide across the Mall and thereby the Water will be carried off in its former natural course into the Pond aforesaid the which heretofore being obstructed, has occasioned the nusance aforesaid and also has very much hurt and injured the Towns Land by the School house, which has rendred the Road along there frequently almost impossible: We are also of opinion that the fee of Hog Alley is in Messrs. Brimmers, and who as they will be accomodated by the Removal of the Fence North of said Alley are willing to lay as much Gravel as will to all intents prevent any inconvenience to those who hold under Durant or any of the Vicinity there and which will ever preserve the Mall intire and prevent further charge ——

BENJAMIN KENT p. Order.

The aforegoing Report having been read and debate had thereon, — A Motion was made that said Report be recommitted, which did not obtain, — the Question being then put — Whether the Report shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative

Mr. John Coply chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing, having acquainted the Town that he was about leaving the Province for some time; and desiring to be excused he was accordingly excused ——

The Town brought in their Votes for two Wardens and upon sorting them, it appeared that ——

Messrs. Joshua Green - - - - - - - (excused)
Andrew Black

were chose Wardens for the ensuing Year - - - - -

see Page

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given Mr. James Richardson for his good services as a Fire-Ward, several Years past ——

[**434.**] The Town brought in their Votes for one Fire Ward in the room of Mr. James Richardson, who had resigned and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. John Coffin

was chosen a Fire-Ward for the ensuing Year ——

The Committee appointed to consider, "Whether it will not be more for the safety and preservation of the Town, that Pumps be fixed at the Mill Bridge or some other places to be used in times of Fire" now Report ——

That they have attended that service and are unanimously of opinion, that it will tend greatly for the preservation of the Towns & safety in a time of Fire to have two Pumps fixed at the Mill bridge, one on each side and two at the Draw bridge in the same manner. The Committee having viewed said Bridges & the Mill Creek find very convenient places where said Pumps may be fixed, without any inconvenience to the Inhabitants, or to Carriages passing over said Bridges one of which the Committee propose shall be in the House or Shed lately erected at the Mill Bridge for the new Engine given to the Town by the Honble. John Hancock Esq. ——

The Committee have also procured an estimate of the expence that will arise if the Town shall think proper to have said Pumps, and it will be about Seven Pounds lawful Money for each Pump, the whole charges of the Pump maker, Blacksmiths and Carpenters being included in this sum ——

The Committee also Report that they Judge it necessary, another Pump about midway between the 1. Bridge on the Southwest side of the Creek should be fixed, as there are a great number of large Wooden [**435.**] Houses and Buildings in that Neighbourhood, & few of them have Wells and Pumps, and in case of a Fire thereabouts the chief supply of Water must be from the Creek, and if a Pump should be fixed there, it would prevent great distruction in a time of Fire, and this the Committee would recommend provided the Inhabitants and Proprietors of Houses who are near will at their own Expence fill up and keep in Repair the Passage Way belonging to the Town that leads to the place where this Pump is proposed to be fixed ——

All which is submitted in the name of the Committee ——

E. Goldthwait.

The foregoing Report having been read & considered it was Voted, the same be accepted, and that the Selectmen be directed to procure Pumps and fix them at the Places mentioned in the Report as soon as may be ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday the 24. Instant 11. O'Clock A: M:

Wednesday March 24 inst 11 O'Clock A. M: Met according to Adjournment ——

M^r^. Benjamin Hammett

was chosen a Clerk of the Market for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for two Wardens and upon sorting them it appeared, that

M^r^. Samuel Allen Ottis

Capt. John Pulling

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing ——

[**436.**] A Motion made and seconded, that the two Votes passed the 8. of March Instant so far as they respect "the ways

and means for defreying the charge of keeping and supplying the Lamps," the Town have ordered to be purchased; also the appointing a Committee to "make application to the General Court for a Law obliging the Inhabitants of this Town to pay a certain yearly Rate for every Wheel Carriage they own, and impowering the Town Treasurer to receive of every Inholder and Retailer of Spirituous Liquors and Vendue Masters a certain Sum when they receive their Licenses as a Friend to support the Expence of keeping and supplying three hundred Lamps in this Town," be reconsidered, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative — also

Voted, that the Expence of keeping & supplying three hundred Lamps or any further number shall be defreyed by a general Tax on the Inhabitants of this Town ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted,

The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
M^r^. Ebenezer Storer
M^r^. Henderson Inches
William Phillips Esq.
Benjamin Austin Esq.
M^r^. Nathaniel Appleton

be a Committee to consider of some proper regulations for the security of Lamps that are to be placed in this Town, and to Report the same at the next Meeting, as also their Opinion relative to the fashion, purchase placing and lighting said Lamps, and every other [**437.**] Thing they may think necessary to be done upon this matter —— see Page

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that ——

M^r^. James Richardson
M^r^. Edward Payne
M^r^. Daniel Hubbard
Deacon Caleb Davis
M^r^. Robert Peirpoint
M^r^. William Bant
M^r^. Philip Dumeresque
M^r^. Henry Hill
M^r^. Peter Johonnot
M^r^. John Ballard
Capt. William Mackay
Capt. John Bradford

A Committee appointed the 8th. Instant to procure Subscriptions of the Inhabitants for such Sums as may be thought necessary to defrey the first cost of the Lamps, Voted by the Town, be desired to Collect the Monys subscribed for as soon as possible ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[**438.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 5. Day of May 1773

Prayer was made by the Rev^d^. M^r^. Samuel Mather

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting read
Sundry Laws - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - read ——
Mr. Timothy Newell one of the Selectmen proposed in their Names to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at the Town House in Boston upon Wednesday the 26. Day of May Current, and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected; Accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded; and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12. O'Clock ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Four Representatives, the Number of the same was found to be 419, and upon sorting them it appeared, that the Four following Gentlemen were chosen Vizt.

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - -	418
The Honble. John Hancock Esq. - - - - -	417
Mr Samuel Adams - - - - - - - - - -	413
William Phillips Esq. - - - - - - - - -	416

[**439.**] The choice of Representatives being over, and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that Town may proceed in transacting the other affairs mentioned in the Warrant: Accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes & upon sorting them it appeared that the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen; but the Town being soon informed by the Constable sent to Mr. Cushing, that he was gone out of Town, they proceeded to bring in their Votes for another, Moderator as directed by the Selectmen, and upon sorting them it appeared that Mr. Samuel Adams Esq. was chosen

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "Whether the Town will give Instructions to the Representatives that may be chosen," was read, whereupon Voted, that the Town will give Instructions to their Representatives — also Voted, that ——

Dr. Joseph Warren
Dr. Benjamin Church
Joseph Greanleaff Esq.
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton
Mr William Cooper ——

be a Committee to prepare Instructions for our Representatives in General Assembly, and to Report if they are able at 5. O'Clock in the Evening ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock Met according to Adjournment

[**440.**] To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 5. 1773 ——

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their annual Meeting the 6th. Day of May last, desiring the Selectmen to Visit the Publick Schools in the Town and to Invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they shall think proper, and to Report thereon ——

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on the 1st Day of July last, and the following Gentlemen were invited to accompany us therein — Vizt. ——

The Honble John Irving Esq.
James Bowdoin Esq.
Thomas Hubbard Esq.
Harrison Gray Esq.
James Pitts Esq.
The Representatives of the Town
The Overseers of the Poor
The Town Treasurer
The Revd Charles Chauncey - - - - - D: D:
Mather Byles - - - - - - - D: D:
Andrew Eliot - - - - - - - D: D:
Ebenezer Pemberton - - - - D: D:
Samuel Cooper - - - - - - D: D:
Samuel Mather
John Hunt
John Bacon
John Lothrop
Simeon Howard
Searl
Penuel Bowen
Mr William Powell
Majr Nathaniel Barbour
[441.] Mr. Nathaniel Appleton
Mr. John Sweetser
Mr. Thomas Brattle
Mr. William Dennie
Byfield Lyde Esq.
Mr. John Amory
Joseph Jackson Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. Ebenezer Storer
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
Capt. Martin Gay
Coll°. John Erving
Thomas Daws Esq.
Mr. Joshua Blanchard
Mr. Thomas Leverit
Majr. Adino Paddock
Coll°. William Coffin
Mr. John Joy
Joseph Scott Esq.
James Otis Esq.
Joshua Winslow Esq. from Nova Scotia
Thomas Boylston Esq.
Thomas Alwin Esq.
Mr. Tuttle Hubbard
Mr. Carson } from S°. Carolina
Mr. Ludson }

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. John Mico Wendell
Mr. Thomas Amory
Mr. John Greanleaff
Mr. Nathaniel Allen of Cape Ann
Edmund Quincy Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Mr. William Mollineux
Mr. Ebenezer Hancock ——

[442.] And found the South Grammar School had 130 Scholars the North Grammar School 59 Scholars; the South Writing School 220 Scholars; the North Writing School 250 Scholars; the Writing School in Queen Street 264 Scholars, all in very good order ——

JOHN SCOLLAY
TIMOTHY NEWELL
THOMAS MARSHALL
SAMUEL AUSTIN
} Selectmen of Boston

Mr. Elias Parkman ——
was chosen a Clerk of the Market for the Year ensuing.

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. — "To consider whether any further directions are necessary to be given Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, relative to the Money borrowed of the Town some time since by the Managers of the Linen Manufactory Company" — was read and after debate had thereon — Motioned ——

That the Selectmen be impowered to receive of the Linen Manufactory Company, the Money now in the hands of Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. Executor of the late Middlecott Cook Esq. who was Clerk of said Company, & is the balance remaining due; as also all the Utensils & Articles that now remains in the hands of the Company and upon this being done to give them a discharge — the Question being accordingly put — passed in the Negative

It was then moved and Voted, that the Town Treasurer be directed to put the Compauys Obligation for Moneys lent them by the Town, in Suit, immediately, as twenty Years have near expired since the Note was given — also Voted, that ——

Mr. Samuel Adams
William Phillips Esq.
[443.] Mr. William Mollineux
Mr. William Greanleaff
Mr. Moses Gill

be a Committee to examine the Books of the late Manufactory Company so called, they consenting thereto, and to ascertain the amount of Stock in their hands when the Company discontinued the Manufactory; and also to take an Account of the Utensils then in their possession, and the value of the same and to Report as soon as may be ——

The Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for the Representatives, Reported the following Draught ——

To the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Honble. John Hancock Esq.

William Phillips Esq.
Representatives for the Town of Boston ——

Gentlemen

By the renewed Suffrages of your Brethren of this Town, you are once more called upon to Represent them in the General Assembly: The unanimity so conspicuous in your Election at this important Juncture affords the strongest Testimony of the confidence the People repose in your approved Abilities, and inflexible Attachment to their Constitutional Rights. ——

Your Constituents have beheld with indignation that purposed neglect and insolent contempt with which the Representative Body of this People have been regarded by Administration. A total inattention to the privileges of the Commons in America has disgraced almost every transaction, that materially effected the Colonies: [**444.**] A clandestine, capricious and distructive mode of Government, conch'd under the specious umbrage of Instructions from Majesty, has been uniformly adopted and wantonly exercised for several Years past, thereby rendering the Assemblys of Commons throughout the Colonies, mere Cyphers in the Constitution: For this reason Gentlemen, *we were almost discouraged from renewing the choice of Members, as ineffectual for the several purposes for which they were originally ordain'd;* but still retaining respect to that good and orderly Government, which has ever distinguished this Metropolis; agreeable to the Charter, which on *our* parts remains inviolate, we *once* more recommend the important concerns of this aggrieved People, to your vigilance, wisdom and integrity; in confidence that you will regard with Jealousy, *your own* constitutional power & importance of which the honor and wellfare of this People, should render you extremely tenacious; that you will vigorously oppose any incroachments on your ancient privileges and never will betray your Constituents, by surrendering those powers of framing Laws & Taxes for the People to any Usurper under Heaven ——

The Constitutional mode by which Legislation & Taxation are conducted in Great Britain, being nothing more or less than the exercise of the power of the People by their Representatives: This form of Goverment is extended by sacred compact to the English Dominions in America, therefore the Privileges and Powers of the Commons of this Colony respecting Legislation and Taxation are to all intents and purposes, as full express and uncontroulable within the *Colony* as those usually exercised by the Commons of Great Britain within the *Realm* and *alike* subjected [**445.**] To the Revision of the King: These Powers and Privileges were secured to our Ancestors, by solem Covenant between them, and the King of England, and perpetuated by their Charter to their latest Posterity: From the free and full enjoyment of these original Rights of English Subjects, we are determined never to recede; and altho' they have been repeatedly and daringly invaded, the hand of Oppression shall never induce us to relinquish our title to freedom: We still perceive with indignation that the Governmental powers of Legislation & Taxation by Arbitrary claim are assumed, and vigorously exercised by those who by their local

situation can have no adequate knowledge of our circumstances, no kindred feelings in our distresses, and when swayed by a *corrupt influence*, may impoverish weaken and inslave us ——

To the numberless grievances flowing from this iniquitous source, which we have already frequently and fruitlessly complained of, we may Justly add a stipendary Soldierly stationed and continued in the chief Fortress in the Metropolis of this Colonie by the inexorable Enemies to our free Constitution: Standing Armies have forever made Shipwreck of Free States and no People Jealous of their liberties ever patiently suffered Mercenary Troops to be quarter'd & maintained within their Populous Cities; the Militia of the Colony are its natural and best defence; and it is an approved maxim in all well policed States, that the Sword should never be intrusted but to those who combat *pro aris et focis;* and whose interest it is to preserve the publick peace. We cannot therefore but resent those Standing Troops within our Capital Cities, as the appointed Executioners of Tyranny, and prepared Instruments to massacre the defenceless Citizens, at the nod of any Master who [**446.**] May have Authority to appoint or discharge, reward or punish them ——

Thus armed with Brutal force the Enemies of our freedom persevere with alacrity, to compleat their infernal plan of enslaving America; the above atrocious violations of Right, Justice and the Constitution are succeeded by the pensioning our Governor the Justices of the Superior Court &c. which in effect is bribing them on the side of Despotism: Those who by their several Offices should be the Asylum of publick security & liberty, are no longer the objects of confidence and regard with the People; we cannot but esteem them as subordinate Tyrants intrusted with a Rod to scourge us, and suppress that spirit of freedom which is the glorious characteristic of America. While they are thus purchased with ample Salaries extorted from the Colonies by Great Britain, we must be Jealous of a corrupt influence, when ever an Arbitrary measure of Goverment is to be carried, or a Claim of Right subjected to the Division of our Courts of Justice ——

We shall not recapitulate the black Catalogue of abuses which the Colonies have been subjected to for several years past; that we have suffered them so long is disgraceful to us: But we cannot pass over in silence the late extraordinary and formidable innovation in constituting an Arbitrary Court of Inquisition, which has lately assumed Jurisdiction within our Sister Colony of Rhode Island, in direct violation of all law and Justice; who arrogate the enormous power to transport supposed Offenders to a remote Kingdom, to be *capitally arraigned* for offences committed within that Colony. Agreable to the [**447.**] Constitution of the Colonies, said Court in the exercise of such extravagant powers, are to be held in the same contempt and detestation, with *a Banditti of Slave Makers on the Coast of Affrica.* We therefore expect you make due enquiry into a Measure so truly alarming & protest against every exertion of lawless power, which threatens the ruin of the Colonies ——

Harrassed and provoked by such repeated abuses of power, we

esteem it our indispensible duty to demand redress; to your Wisdom and your fortitude we commit ourselves not doubting you will readily pursue such measures as have a tendency to relieve us in the most *easy* and *effectual* manner; for this purpose we recommend to your most serious consideration whether an application to the English Colonies on this Continent correspondent to the plan proposed by our *noble patriotick* Sister Colony of Virginia (which in our opinion is a wise and salutary proposal) will not secure our threatned liberties, and restore that mutual harmony and confidence between the British Nation & the English Colonies, so important to both especially the *former*, which if rescinded from her Connections with *this Continent*, must naturally fall a prey to her numerous & Jealous Neighbours. We have likewise the most sanguine expectations that a *Union* of *Councils* and *Conduct* among the *Colonies* will assuredly by the smiles of Heaven fix our Rights on such a solid basis, as may intimidate our implacable Enemies from any further attempts to invade them ——

The aforegoing Report having been read & considered & the Question put — Whether the same shall be accepted & [**448.**] Be the Instructions to our Representatives — It was Voted, unanimously that said Report be accepted, and printed in the several News Papers ——

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants "That Kilby Street leading out of King Street, may be paved" — was read and considered, and the Question put Whether the Town will pay One third part of the Charges whenever the Abutters are ready to pay the other two third part of the expence of paving said Street — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Petition of a Number of Inhabitants, "that some proper methods may be devised and executed for paving, or otherwise effectually raising & repairing South Street, was read and considered, whereupon Voted, that said Petition be dismiss'd ——

The Petition of John Erving Esq. & others, "That the Street known by the Name of Pleasant Street may be accepted of, and Recorded as a Town Street, the present Abutters consenting thereto, "was read and considered — And the Question put — Whether the prayer of the Petition shall be granted, and said Street accepted as a Town Street, and Recorded by the Name of Pleasant Street — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Petition of M^r. Samuel Holbrook Writing Master of the South School, which was referred over to this Meeting for consideration was read; and after some debate it was Voted, that the same shall be considered at the Adjournment ——

[**449.**] Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday next 3. O'Clock P: M: and the Meeting was accordingly Adjourned ——

Tuesday May 11 3. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed to examine the Accompts of M^r. David Jeffries Town Treasurer, have attended that service and find the same right cast, and well vouched in which he Charges

himself with sundry Fines Rents and other Incomes of the Town; as also with the Tax of £6500 — all of which amounts to the sum of 13299 ,, 5 ,, 0¼ including the balance of Old Accompt ——

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors amounting to £1045 ,, 13 ,, 7 ,, by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to 2952 ,, 5 ,, 1½ of which he has paid £2759 ,, 12 ,, 8½ — And by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor, which contain the Charges of the Almshouse, amounting to £3355 ,, 5 ,,11. of which he has paid £25½ ,, 8 ,, 1. Also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £444 ,, 9 ,, 2, the whole amounting to £7797 ,, 13 ,, 9½ ——

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts, in *a very particular manner* and every other branch of Public charge amounting in all as above to Seven thousand & seven hundred & ninety seven Pounds thirteen Shillings, and nine Pence half Penny [**450.**] As by Account of Town Treasury in Town Treasurers Books; Balance whereof being £5501 ,, 11 ,, 3. is carried to the Credit of New Accompt ——

Which Report and Accompt being read, Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted ——

A Motion was made to refer the Grant of Moneys for Town Charges to an Adjournment, and that Notifications be issued for that purpose — And the Question being put — Passed in the Negative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Seven Thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for Relief of the Poor, and defreying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year ——

Committee relative to Manufactory Company having Reported; a Motion was made that the Report be accepted, and that the remaining part of the Committee of that Company doing and complying with what is expressed in the Committees Report, shall be discharged by the Town from any demand the Town have upon them; but this Motion being withdrawn it was then moved and

Voted, that the further Consideration of this affair be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting; if there should be an Adjournment; otherwise to the next Town Meeting; and that the Committee be desired to make further enquiry, and Report as soon as may be ——

The Committee appointed to consider of some [**451.**] Proper Regulations for the security of the Lamps that are to be Erected in this Town, as also their Opinion of the fashion &c. beg leave to Report and recommend to the Town — That a Committee be appointed to apply to the General Court as soon as may be for an Act impowering the Town to Erect, support and defend the Lamps, and to make such regulations as they shall think proper for the same ——

The Committee are of opinion that white Globe Lamps will answer better that Square ones, being cheaper in the first cost, yeilding a better light, and less liable to be out of order

As there is no doubt the General Court will readily comply with our reasonable request in making such Laws as shall be necessary, therefore recommend that the Committee appointed to Collect the Money subscribed by the Inhabitants be desired to compleat the same as soon as may be & deposite the same in the Town Treasury, ready for the order of the Committee, that may be appointed to purchase the Lamps and Erect them. If the Money should be Collected soon its supposed the Lamps may be light next Fall ——

As the proper placing the Lamps is of great importance for the convenience and elegance of the Town, it is recommended that two Persons dwelling in each Ward be chosen to attend the Committee when about to fix upon the place of such Lamp — All which is submitted by order of the Committee

JOHN ROWE Chairman

The foregoing Report having been read & considered, the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

It was then Voted, that The Representatives of the Town be a Committee to apply to the General Court as soon as may be for an Act impowering the Town to Erect support & defend the Lamps agreed upon, & for such other Regulations as they may think proper — Also ——

[**452.**] Voted, that the following Persons - - Viz^{t}

		Wards
M^{r}. Edward Payne - - - -	Deacon Jonathan Brown - -	1
Newman Grenough Esq. - -	Capt. Fortesque Vernon - -	2
M^{r}. John Leach - - - - -	John Tudor Esq. - - - -	3
M^{r}. Paul Reveire - - - - -	Capt. Edward Procter - -	4
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. - -	M^{r}. Thomas Hutchinson Jr. -	5
John Barret Esq. - - - -	Capt. John Bradford - - -	6
Capt. John Homer - - - -	Capt. Job Prince - - - -	7
Joseph Jackson Esq. - - -	William Cooper - - - -	8
Daniel Hubbard Esq. - - -	John Amory - - - - - -	9
M^{r}. Daniel Waldo - - - -	Maj^{r}. Adino Paddock - - -	10
Deacon Benj. Church - - -	M^{r}. John Sweetser - - - -	11
Deacon Caleb Davis - - - -	M^{r}. Thomas Amory - - -	12

Be appointed and desired to attend the Committee on Lamps when about to fix upon the Places for Erecting said Lamps ——

It was further Voted, that John Rowe Esq and others the Committee on Lamps who have made the foregoing Report be desired to purchase the number of Lamps Voted by the Town, and to Erect them in suitable Places ——

Upon a Motion made and Voted, that

Thomas Daws Esq.
Thomas Gray Esq.

be added to the Committee for purchasing Lamps &^{c} — also ——

Voted, that Ezekial Goldthwait Esq.
John Adams Esq.
Samuel Quincy Esq.

be a Committee to make draught of a Bill for regulating Lamps &^{c}. which draft they are desired to hand into the Representatives of this Town as soon as possible ——

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition [453.] Of a number of the Inhabitants "that Sea Street may be thoroughly repaired," Report — That they have attended that service and upon searching the Records, find that on the 31. of October 1683 — the Town laid out the Street within mentioned of fifty feet in wedth, and at the same time granted, all the Flatts and Lands below said High Way into the Sea, unto the Proprietors of the Lands, who were Abutters on said Way in an equal proportion to their several fronts on said Ways; always provided that said Proprietors & Abutters maintain in good Repair the said Way at their proper cast and charge — The Committee also find that on 21. of May 1736. on the Petition of the Proprietors and Inhabitants of Land in said Sea Street, the Town then reduced the wedth of said Street from fifty feet as it was originally laid out, to thirty five Feet the present wedth thereof, but upon this Condition that the same Street be kept and maintained in good Repair, open free and unincumbred at the proper cost and charge of the Proprietors and Abutters on said Street for the use of the Town forever — By this reduction of the wedth of the Street, the Proprietors of the Lands there had a great addition made to the value of their Estates, and are therefore under a double obligation (as the Committee apprehend) to keep and maintain the same in good Repair at their own cost and charge, and upon their default herein, All the Lands and Flatts below said Street of thirty five Feet in wedth, must revert to the Town and as some parts of it are much out of repair, the Town will take such steps thereupon as may be Judged necessary

In the Name of the Committee

Ezekial Goldthwait ——

The foregoing Report having been read and debate had thereon, the Question was put — "Whether the Town will accept of said Report — Passed in the Affermative ——

[454.] A Motion made that the Selectmen be directed to apply to proper Persons for the Repairs of Sea Street which are now in such a condition as to be liable to a presentment, and that they dispose of so much of the forfeited Flatts &c. as shall be sufficient to defrey the charge of Repairs &c. — but the Question not being put It was Voted, that the further consideration of the methods to be taken with the delinquent Abutters for the putting said Street in good Repair be referred to the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday the 14. Instant 3. O'Clock P: M: And the Meeting was accordingly Adjourned ——

Friday 14. of May 3. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment ——

Mr. Samuel Adams the Moderater of this Meeting having acquainted the Town in writing, that he was prevented by indisposition of Body from attending his duty at the Meeting, the Town proceeded to the choice of another Moderator, and the Votes being brought in and sorted, it appeared, that William Phillips Esq. was chosen ——

Voted, that the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed to act upon the List of Jurors

The Committee appointed "to view the Neck and consider of the best method to secure the same, as also of the Sum which will be necessary for this purpose" — Report ——

[**455.**] That having viewed the Premisses, and considered what Repairs are necessary, and what would be the cost thereof, Your Committee are of Opinion, that to repair the breach made on the East side of the Neck in a proper & effectual manner, would occasion a very great Expence, while the advantages arising from it will be but triffling; and although it continues in its present state, it is, probable that very little of the Land will be diminished; As to the damage which may be done to the payment, by any extraordinary high Tides a Triffling Expence may from time to time repair the same, untill the Circumstances of the Town will better allow of, a thorough Repair to the Dam &c.

With respect to the West side of the Neck we think it necessary in order to prevent the Land from being washed away and the Pavement greatly injured, that there be a Stone Wall laid to extend about 40 or 50 Rod from the Stone Wall now at the West side close along by the Towns Lands which will be a sufficient security to the Land and pavement on that side the Neck, the Expence whereof may be about One hundred Pounds lawful Money, — In behalf of the Committee ——

JOHN SCOLLAY Chairman

The foregoing Report having been read, and debate had thereon, the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Negative ——

It was then moved and seconded, that the Selectmen be desired to make such Repairs for the security of that part of the Neck proposed in said Report to be secured as to them may appear absolutely necessary, provided the Expence does not exceed, Fifty Pounds lawful Mony ——

The foregoing Motion was withdrawn, and a Motion made to reconsider the Vote for not accepting the Report of [**456.**] The Committee on Boston Neck, whereupon it was Voted that the same be Re-considered, and that the Report of said Committee be accepted, and the Gentlemen the Selectmen desired to carry said Report into execution ——

The Committee appointed "to examine the Books of the late Linnen Manufactory Company so called, they consenting thereto; and to ascertain the amount of Stock in their hands, when the Company discontinued the Manufactory, and also to take an account of the Utensils then in their possession and the value of the same" — Reported, That after the best enquiry they have been able to make they cannot find the same Companys Books, and therefore cannot ascertain the facts as directed by the Town, excepting from a Memorandum taken from the Books formerly by Mr. Edward Payne which is now offered to the Town ——

The Committee beg leave to inform the Town that there are in the hands and at the disposal of the Survivors of said Company two Stocking Looms, one Cauldron, and some Worsted Combs be-

sides other Utensils said to be in the hands of Mr. John Brown, valued as follows Viz^{t}.

2 Stocking Looms - - - - - - - -	£20 —
a Cauldron - - - - - - - - - - -	8 —
Worsted Combs 2 pair - - - - - - -	2 —
	—— £30
Balance in the hands of the Managers - - -	89 ,, 5 ,, 6½
	£119 ,, 5 ,, 6½

Sundry other Articles to a considerable value belonging to the Manufactory, which the Managers will do all in their power to put the Town in possession of ——

The foregoing Report having been read & considered [**457.**] The Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative ——

It was also Voted, That upon Andrew Oliver, Thomas Hubbard & Sylvester Gardner Esq^{rs}. the only surviving Persons that signed the Note for the Sum of £1291 ,, 10 ,, 6 , other Goverments Money in Bills of the Old Tenor, lent by the Town the 10th. of May 1753 — paying the Sum of Money mentioned in the Right of the late Linnen Manufactory Company in & to all the Utensils that still remains or any ways belong to said Persons for the sole use and benefit of the Town, and also that they will assist the Town in procuring said Utensils or the value thereof to the utmost of their power, in such case the Treasurer is hereby directed upon receiving said Moneys and Assignments to deliver to them the Note aforesaid, the Town accepting the same as a full discharge thereof ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the following Resolve passed — *Nem Cont.*

Whereas it has been Reported that certain Persons Justly obnoxious to this Town and Province are to be invited to Dine with the Governor and Council on the ensuing Anniversary Election$_{a}^{s}$ Day in this Hall; Be it *Resolved* and an *Instruction* to the Gentlemen the Selectmen, that if a Committee of his Majestys Council shall apply to them for the use of this Hall, to dine in, they consent upon these express Conditions, that neither the Commissioners of the Customs and their Attendants, nor Officers of the Army & Navy, Stationed here for the purpose of inforcing unconstitutional Acts of Parliament by Military Execution, be invited — it being utterly against the inclination of the Town, that even one Person who has rendered himself enemical to the Rights of [**458.**] America should be admitted into the Hall upon such an Occasion ——

It was Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be directed to wait upon the Chairman of the Committee of Council, and leave with him a Copy of said Vote ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that Mr. William Mollineux be asked by the Treasurer for the Monys due from him to the Town ——

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred & twenty Pounds, be

allowed and paid unto Mr. John Lovel, for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted that the Sum of One Hundred & twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall [**459.**] become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarterr ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston, for his Salary as Master of the Writing School at the North End for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed & paid un'o Mr. James Lovel, for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the further Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Lovel, as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that a further Sum of Twenty five Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Carter above his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street, as an encouragement for him to exert himself in the service of the Town the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

[**460.**] Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid to such Person as the Selectmen shall appoint an Assistant for the Master of the Writing School in the Common the Year ensuing the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston Master of the North Writing School, for

providing an Assistant the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that office.

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and impowered to allow the several Schoolmasters Interest on the Sums due to them, from the dates of their Warrants to the time of payment ——

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, That the Assessors be directed, that as soon as they receive the Warrant from the Province and County Treasurers they set about and compleat the Tax upon the Inhabitants

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Major Thomas Daws for his good and faithful services as a Fire Ward for several Years past ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the [**461.**] Representatives of the Town be and they hereby are Instructed to move the Honble. the House of Representatives immediately after the next General Election of Councillors that the Representatives of all the Towns in this Province do recommend it to the severa lTowns which they Represent. To Assess a Sum of Money upon the Inhabitants of the Town sufficient for the payment of their proportion of the cost and charge of an Agent or Agents which are or may be imployed in the service of the Province ——

Upon a Motion made, Ordered that the Vote lately passed respecting the Commissioners &c. be printed in the several public News Papers ——

The Petitions of Mr. Samuel Holbrook and Mr Fenno, were read, and after debate had thereon, it was Voted, that they have leave to withdraw said Petitions

Voted, that all Matters and Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the next General Town Meeting, to be then considered of and acted upon ——

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town, be and hereby are given to Mr Samuel Adams and William Phillips Esq. who have both acted as Moderators for their good services at this Meeting ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[**462.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and legally warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 5th. Day of November Anno Domini 1773. at 10 O'Clock A: M:

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - read ——

The Town were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, and upon sorting them it appear'd that the Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen ——

The Petition of a large number of the Inhabitants setting forth — "That they are Justly alarmed at the Report that the East India

Company in London are about shipping a Cargo or Cargos of Tea into this and the other Colonies, and that they esteem it a political plan of the British Administration whereby they have reason to fear not only that the trade upon which they depend for a subsistence is threatned to be totally destroyed; but what is much more than anything in life to be dreaded, the Tribute laid upon the importation of that Article will be fixed and established, and our liberties for which we have long struggled, will be lost to them and their Posterity; and therefore praying that the sence of the matter may be taken, and such steps pursued as to their safety and well being shall appertain" was read and debate had thereon ——

A number of printed Hand Bills, called "*The Tradesmens Protest against the Proceedings of the Merchants relative to the new Importations of Tea*" [**463.**] Having been seen to be distributed in the Hall a Motion was made that one of said Papers be read to the Inhabitants, and said Hand Bill having been accordingly read one of the Inhabitants openly declared that he saw *Charles Paxton* one of the Commissioners of the Customs, giving them away the Day before in Kings Street — It was then moved that the Tradesmen present might collect by themselves on the South side of the Hall, that their Sense of the Paper might be taken. ——

Then the Question was put to those Tradesmen "Whether they acknowledge the said paper called, "*The Tradesmens Protest*" which passed in the Negative, unanimously — there being in the estimation of the Town at least four hundred Tradesmen present in the Meeting

A Motion was then made and the Question accordingly put to those Tradesmen — Whether they do now detest as false scandalous, and bace the said Paper & the Person known to have distributed it — Viz^{t}. Charles Paxton and all others who have distributed the same, and the Printer thereof. Viz^{t}. E. Russell — which passed in the Affermative, unanimously ——

The Town entered again into the consideration of the subject matter of the Warrant, and debated largely on the nature and tendency of the Project for introducing Tea into the Colonies to be disposed of by Commissioners appointed by the East India Company ——

It was then moved that if any Gentlemen in Trade present or any other Inhabitant had anything to offer shewing that the introduction of Tea in the manner projected would not be detrimental to the Interest of the People in general as well as to the Mercantile & Trading part of the Colonies; that they would now do it, & what they offered should be treated with candor [**464.**] But no one Inhabitant did offer anything in favor of said Project ——

After due deliberation the Town came into the following Resolutions *Nem Cont* — Viz^{t}.

Whereas it appears by an Act of the British Parliament passed in the last Sessions, that the East India Company are by the said Act allowed to export their Teas into America, in such Quantities as the Lord of the Treasury shall Judge proper: And some People with an evil intent to amuse the People, and others thro': inattention to the true design of the Act, have so construed the same, as

that the Tribute of three Pence on every Pound of Tea is not to be enacted by the detestable Task Masters there — Upon the due consideration thereof, *Resolved*, That the Sense of the Town cannot be better expressed on this Occasion, than in the words of certain Judicious Resolves lately entered into by our worthy Brethren the Citizens of Philadelphia — wherefore

Resolved, that the disposal of their own property is the Inherent Right of Freemen; that there can be no property in that which another can of right take from us without our consent; that the Claim of Parliament to tax America, is in other words a claim of Right to buy Contributions on us at pleasure ——

2d. That the Duty imposed by Parliament upon Tea landed in America, is a tax on the Americans, or levying Contributions on them without their consent ——

3d. That the express purpose for which the Tax is levied on the Americans, namely for the support of Government, the Administration of Justice, and the defence of His Majestys Dominions in America, has a direct tendency to render Assemblies useless, and to introduce Arbitrary Government and Slavery ——

[465.] 4th. That a virtuous and steady opposition to the Ministerial Plan of governing America, is absolutely necessary to preserve even the shadow of Liberty, and is a duty which every Freeman in America owes to his Country to himself and to his Posterity ——

5th. That the Resolutions lately come by the East India Company, to send out their Teas to America Subject to the payment of Duties on its being landed here, is an open attempt to enforce the Ministerial Plan, and a violent attack upon the Liberties of America ——

6th. That it is the Duty of every American to oppose this attempt ——

7th. That whoever shall directly or indirectly countenance this attempt, or in any wise aid or abet in unloading receiving or vending the Tea sent or to be sent out by the East India Company while it remains subject to the payment of a duty here is an Enemy to America ——

8th. That a Committee be immediately chosen to wait on those Gentlemen, who it is reported are appointed by the East India Company to receive and sell said Tea, and to request them from a regard to their own characters and the peace and good order of this Town and Province immediately to resign their appointment — And the following Gentlemen — Vizt.

The Moderator
Mr Henderson Inches
Benjamin Austin Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason

and the Selectmen of the Town are appointed a Committee accordingly ——

At the same time the Town passed the following Resolve — Vizt.——

[466.] Whereas, the Merchants of this Continent did enter into an Agreement to withhold the importation of Tea untill the Duty

laid thereon should be repealed; which Agreement as we are informed has been punctually observed by the respectable Merchants in the Southern Colonies, while by reason of the peculiar circumstances attending the trade of this Place some quantities tho very small in proportion to what had been usual before said Agreement have been imported by some of the Merchants here; And whereas it now appears probable to this Town, that the British Administration have taken encouragement even from such small Importations, to grant Licenses to the East India Company as aforesaid — Therefore *Resolved*, That it is the determination of this Town, by all means in their power to prevent the Sales of the Tea imported by the East India Company: And as the Merchants here have generally opposed the Measure, it is the Just expectation of the Inhabitants of this Town, that no one of them will on any pretence whatever, import any Tea that shall be liable to pay the duty, from this time; and untill the Act imposing the same shall be repealed ——

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned 'till 3 O'Clock in the Afternoon ——

3 O'Clock. P: M: Town met according to adjournment ——

The Committee appointed for the purpose Reported to the Town — That they had waited on Richard Clark Esq. and Sons, and Benjamin Faneuil Esq. said to be Factors of the East India Company, and communicated to them the Vote of the Town whereby they were requested immediately to [**467.**] Resign their appointment. And the said Gentlemen informed the Committee that as Messieurs Thomas and Elisha Hutchinson (who were also Reported to be Factors to the said Company) were at Milton, and not expected in Town till Saturday Evening, and as they chose to consult them, they could not return an answer to the Town, till Monday Morning ——

It was then moved and Voted, unanimously, that

M^r^. Samuel Adams.
M^r^. William Mollineux
Dr Joseph Warren

be a Committee to repair unto Messrs. Clark Faneuil & Winslow those of the Tea Consignees said to be in Town, and acquaint them that as they were not Joint Factors for the East India Company with the Hutchinsons, it was supposed they could determine for themselves, and therefore it was the expectation of the Town, that they return an immediate answer to the Message

The Committee appointed to repair to the Tea Consignees in Town — Reported, that an answer might be expected from them in half an hour — they also informed that M^r^. Winslow was not in Town ——

A Motion was then made "that a Committee be appointed to repair to Milton and acquaint Messrs Thomas & Elisha Hutchinson, with the request of the Town, that they immediately resign their appointment — And the Honble. John Hancock Esq. M^r^. John Pitts M^r^. Samuel Adams D^r^. Joseph Warren, M^r^. William Powell & M^r^. Nathaniel Appleton, were appointed a Committee for that purpose ——

Mr. Ezekiel Russell came into Town Meeting, & asked leave to speak — He then acquainted the Town that he was the Printer of the Paper called the Tradesmen's Protest against the Merchants, & that he was paid for the same by the Person who [**468.**] Employed him, — this Information was not given at the desire of the Town; it being their sense, that as a Town they had nothing to do with the Printer or Author of the said Paper ——

A Motion was made that Mr. Barrett who attends upon the Selectmen might be directed to acquaint Messrs. Clarke and Faneuil, that the Town were impatiently waiting for an answer to their last Message ——

Before Mr. Barrett could proceed a Letter was brought into the Hall, signed by Richard Clark & Son, & Benjamin Faneuil for himself and Joshua Winslow, and directed to the Moderator to be communicated to the Town — Vizt. ——

Boston November 5. 1773

Sir

It is impossible for us to comply with the request of the Town, signified to us this Day by their Committee, as we know not what terms the Teas if any part of it should be sent to our care, will come out on, and what obligations either of a moral or pecuniary nature we may be under to fullfill the trust that may be devolved on us. When we are acquainted with these Circumstances we shall be better qualified to give a definitive answer to the request of the Town ——

We are
Sir
Your most humble Servt

Richard Clark & Sons
Benjamin Faneuil Junr. for
himself & Josha. Winslow —

To
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Moderator of a Town Meeting
Assembled at Faneuil Hall ——

This Letter was read, and a Motion then made and the Question accordingly put — " Whether the same be satisfactory to the Town — Passed in the Negative Nemini Contradicente

[**469.**] The Meeting was then Adjourned " till the next Day at 11. O'Clock to receive the Report of the Commitee appointed to wait on Messrs. Hutchinsons ——

Satturday 11. O'Clock A: M: The Town met by Adjournment (the Meeting still continuing very full)

The Committee appointed to wait upon the Messrs. Hutchinsons at Milton — Reported — That they had enquired the last Evening and this Morning at the House of Elish Hutchinson Esq. in this Town, and were informed that those Gentlemen were at Milton; the Committee proceeded this Morning to Milton and calling at the Governors Seat were informed that only Mr. Elisha Hutchinson lodged there the last Night, who had set out early this Morning for Boston; on their return they called at his House, and were told

that he had been at home this Morning but had again set off for Milton — they then went to the House of Thomas Hutchinson Esq. who was then at home, where they read and delivered to him an attested Copy of the Towns Vote, when he acquainted the Committee, that the Town might expect his answer in one quarter of an Hour ——

The following Letter was soon after sent into the Moderator, signed Thomas Hutchinson, which was read, vizt.

Sir

I have nothing relative to the Teas referred to in the request or Vote of the Town, except that one of my Friends has signified to me by Letter, that part of it he had reason to believe would be Consigned to me and my Brother Jointly, but upon what terms he could not then say ——

Under these circumstances I can give no other answer to the Town, at present, then that if the Teas should arrive & we should be appointed Factors, we shall then be sufficiently informed to answer the request of the Town — I am for my Brother & self

Sir Your humble Servant

Honble. John Hancock Esq. T. HUTCHINSON JUN^{R}.
Moderator of a Town Meet^{g}.
now Assembled at Fanueil Hall ——

[470.] This Letter being read a Motion was made and the Question accordingly put — "Whether the same be satisfactory to the Town" — which passed in the Negative *Neminie Contradicente* ——

A Motion was then made that the Question be put — "Whether it is not the Sense of the Town, that the Letter signed Richard Clark & Son, Benjamin Faneuil for self & Joshua Winslow, and also the Letter signed Thomas Hutchinson, for himself & Brother, which had been both read, were not *Daringly Affrontive* to the Town" — And the Question being accordingly put — It passed in the Affermative, *Nem. Con.*

Upon a Motion made it was Voted, That the Committee of Correspondence for this Town, be and they hereby are directed to transmit the Transactions of this Meeting to every Town in the Province ——

A Motion was then made, that the Thanks of the Town be given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for the dispatch he has given to the Business thereof — but the Motion was objected to by himself and M^{r}. Adams, and it seemed to be the sense of the Town, that a Vote of Thanks should be only given upon very special and signal services performed for the Publick ——

The Town having gone through the Business mentioned in the Notification, it was moved that this Meeting be immediately dissolved — And the Meeting was dissolved accordingly ——

[471.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified & legally warned in publick

Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 18th. Day of November Anno Domini 1774 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read ——

The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator, of this Meeting, & the same being brought in and sorted, it appeared, that

The Honble. John Hancock Esq.

was chosen Moderator of the Meeting by a unanimous Vote

The Petition of a Number of Inhabitants setting forth — That whereas at the late Meeting of the Town their Committee applyed to Messrs: Richard Clarke as supposed Consignees of Teas to be exported by the East India Company to this Port, who then declined giving satisfaction to the Town who requested their resignation of said Commission, assigning for reason that they were not sufficiently informed upon what terms the Teas would come out on — the Town being now Justly & highly alarmed with the hourly expectation of the arrival of said Teas; and apprehending that said Consignees are now thoroughly appraised of the Conditions upon which the India Company are exporting this detestable Commodity into America; Request that the Town may as soon as possible be called together to consult whether further application shall be made to said Consignees or otherwise to act as the Town shall think proper on the present dangerous and alarming exigence." was read and duly considered ——

[**472.**] Upon a Motion made Voted, That a Committee be appointed upon the Tea Consignees again and let them know that when they were last waited upon by a Committee of the Town, they informed the Town that they could not then give a direct answer to the Town, not having received any certain advice relative to the Teas — but as it is now supposed by the Town that since the arrival of Capt. Scott they are informed relative thereto; therefore the Town now request an immediate and direct answer — Whether they would Resign their Appointments as Tea Consignees — also

Voted that John Scollay Esq.
Colle. Thomas Marshall
Mr. Oliver Wendell
Mr. John Pitts
Mr. Samuel Adams
Jonathan Williams Esq.
Mr. William Whitwell

be and hereby are appointed a Committee for the purpose ——

The foregoing Committee Reported — That they had in pursuance of the Order of the Town waited upon the Tea Consignees, whom they found at the Province House and delivered the Message and also left with them an Attested Copy of the Town Vote; that those Gentleman then desired them to inform the Town, that as it was then near One — O'Clock, they could not give an immediate answer, but that the Town might expect one by 3 O'Clock

Upon a Motion made Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M: ——

[**473.**] 3 O'Clock P: M: The Town met according to Adjournment ——

The following Letter from the Tea Consignees was this Afternoon upon the first opening of the Meeting, handed in to the Moderator ——

Boston Novem^{r}. 18. 1774

Sir

In answer to the Message we have this Day received from the Town, we beg leave to say, that we have not yet received any Orders from the East India Company, respecting the expected Teas, but we are now further acquainted that our Friends in England have entered into penal engagements in our behalf, meerly of a Commercial nature; which puts it out of our power to comply with the request of the Town ——

We are

Sir

Your most humble Servants

RICHARD CLARK & SONS,
BENJ^{A}. FANEUIL JUN^{R}. for Self
& JOSHUA WINSLOW Esq.
ELISHA HUTCHINSON for my
Brother and Self ——

Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Moderator of a Town Meeting
Assembled at Faneuil Hall ——

This Letter was read, and a Motion then made & the Question accordingly put — "Whether the same be satisfactory to the Town — Passed in the Negative *Nem^{e} Cont.*"

A Motion made that this Meeting be immediately dissolved — And the Meeting was accordingly dissolved

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[**474.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall on Saturday the 5th Day of March Anno Domini 1774

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - - read

M^{r}. Samuel Adams was chosen Moderator of this Meeting by a written Vote ——

The Committee appointed by the Town the 5th of March last, to apply to a proper Gentleman, to deliver an Oration the 5th. of March instant, to perpetuate the Memory of the Horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the Fifth of March 1770 by a Party of Soldiers, under the Order and Eye of Captain Thomas Preston of the 29th. Regiment — Reported ——

"That having met together several Times for the Purpose mentioned in the Town's Vote they had unanimously made Choice of the Honble. John Hancock Esqr. to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March instant, who had accordingly accepted of that Service."

The above Report having been read by D^{r}. Warren Chairman of the Committee, the question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the affirmative unanimously ——

Upon a Motion made, the Town took into Consideration, what would be the best Time to have the Oration pronounced, as also what Place would be most suitable for the Purpose — Whereupon ——

Voted, That the Oration be delivered at Twelve O'Clock, at the Old South Meeting House, the Hall not being capacious enough to receive the Inhabitants [**475.**] That attend upon the Occasion; the Committee of that Society having upon Application, consented that the Meeting-House should be made Use of for this Service.

Voted, That Dr. Joseph Warren
John Scollay Esqr.
Jonathan Williams Esqr.
be a Committee to wait upon the Honble. John Hancock Esqr. and acquaint him, That it is the Desire of the Town, that the Oration may be delivered at the Old South Meeting House, at Twelve O'Clock, this Forenoon ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to the Old South Meeting House, 12 O'Clock ——

The Town met according to Adjournment at the Old South Meeting House, 12 O'Clock ——

The Committee appointed to wait upon Col[l]. Hancock to acquaint him with the Vote of the Town respecting the Time and Place for delivering of an Oration ——

Reported that said Gentlemen was ready to comply with the Orders of the Town made known to him by their Committee

An Oration to commemorate the Horrid Massacre of the Fifth of March 1770, and to impress the Minds of the Citizens with the ruinous Tendency of Standing Armies, being placed in free & populous Cities &c was delivered by the Honble. John Hancock Esqr. to a large and crowded Audience and received by them with great Applause. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded,

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esq. for the elegant and spirited Oration deliver'd by him at their Request, in Commemoration of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770 by a Party of Soldiers of [**476.**] The 29th. Regiment, under the Command of Captain Thomas Preston — Also

Voted, that Mr. Samuel Adams Moderator
Dr. Joseph Warren
William Phillips Esqr.
Dr. Benjamin Church
John Adams Esqr.
Mr. William Mollineux
Samuel Pemberton Esqr.
be and hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon Col[l]. Hancock & in the Name of the Town to require of him a Copy of the said Oration for the Press ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded,

Voted that the Honble. John Hancock Esqr.
Mr. Samuel Adams Moderator
Dr. Joseph Warren

Mr. John Brown
Samuel Pemberton Esqr.
John Adams Esqr.
Dr. Benjamin Church
Mr. John Pitts
John Scollay Esqr.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration on the fifth of March next to perpetuate the Memory of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770 by a Party of Soldiers of the 29th. Regiment, under the Command of Capt. Thomas Preston. — And to impress upon our Minds the ruinous Tendency of standing Armies being placed in free & populous Cities in a Time of Peace: And the Necessity of such noble Exertions in all future Times, as [**477.**] The Inhabitants of the Town then made whereby the Designs of the Conspirators against the Public Liberty may be still frustrated. ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that there be a Collection made in this Meeting, for Mr. Christopher Monk, a young Man now languishing under a Wound receiv'd in his Lungs, by a Shot from Preston's Bloody Party of Soldiers on 5th. March 1770. ——

A Collection for Mr. Monk was made accordingly, which amounted to the Sum of Three Hundred and Nineteen Pounds 13/3 old Tenor, & the same by Order of the Town, was lodged with the Select Men for the Use of the said Monk.

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Mr. Samuel Adams, Moderator of the Meeting for his good Service.

Then the Meeting was dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting, assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday 14h. day of March 1774 ——

Prayer was made by the Revd. Dr. Eliot

Warrant for calling the Meeting — read.

Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at the Meeting were accordingly read, ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, but by Indisposition prevented giving his Attendance — The Town then brought in their Votes for another Moderator, & upon Sorting them it appeared that the Honble. [**478.**] Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen. ——

Mr. William Cooper was chosen Town-Clerk for the Year ensuing, & took the Oath of Office for the faithful Discharge of his Duty, which Oath was administred to him by Mr. Justice Hill.

The Town proceeded to the Choice of Seven Selectmen, & the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared that

John Scollay Esq.
Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Timothy Newell
Col. Thomas Marshall

Mr. Samuel Austin
Mr. Oliver Wendell
Mr. John Pitts

were chosen Select Men for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, & upon sorting them it appeared that

John Barrett Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Mr. Benja. Dolbear
Mr. Willm Whitwell
Mr. Willm. Greenleaf
Wm White Esq.
John Leverett Esq.
John Gore Esq.
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Mr. Samuel Whitwell
Mr. Samuel Abbot
Mr. Daniel Waldo

were chosen Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

[479.] Francis Green Esq.
Mr. Ebenezer Sever
Mr. Thomas Crafts (excused)
Capt. Samuel Doggett
Mr. John Amory (excused)
Mr. Ebenezer Hancock
Mr. Joseph Callender (excused)
Mr. Thomas Kimble
Mr. John Clough (excused)
Mr. George Bright
Mr. William McNeil
Mr. William Daws Junr. (excused)

were chosen Wardens for the Year ensuing — see page

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Greenough Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
Col. Thomas Marshall
Mr. Joseph Tyler
Major Adino Paddock
Capt. Benjamin Waldo
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
Capt. Martin Gay
Francis Shaw Esq.
Capt. Job Prince
Capt. Edward Procter
Mr. John Coffin
Capt. John Pulling
Deacon Caleb Davis

were chosen Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing——

The Inhabitants bro't in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

[480.] Mr. David Jeffries

was chosen Town Treasurer for the Year ensuing ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Choice of a County-Treasurer be referr'd to 4 O'Clock P. M. and the Choice of Constables to 3 O'Clock P. M.

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock in the Afternoon

3 O'Clock P. M. Town met according to Adjournment.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was put — Whether Collectors of Taxes should be chosen, seperate from Constables — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pounds Fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving. ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Twelve Constables; The Persons chose into that Office are

Messrs. Augustus Hail
Stephen Symmes
John Bennet
George Thomas
Thomas Bell
Joseph Joye
John Coverly
William Told
John Hammatt
Samuel Greanleaf
Matthew Nazro
John Wells

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in, and being sealed up in Town Meeting, were delivered to Mr. Constable Bennet, for him to return to the Court of Sessions, at their next Meeting

[481.] Messrs Richard Billings
Andrew Brimmer
Samuel Parkman
Thomas Melvil
Joshua Blanchard junr.
John Barrett junr.
Benjamin Hammett junr.
Duncan Ingraham junr
John Coffin Jones
James Swan - - - - - - - - - - excused
David Sears - - - - - excused
Daniel Bill

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing — see Page 24th.

Voted, that the Sum of Twelve Pence on the Pound be & hereby is allowed to such Persons, as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall collect, provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to collect, on or before the Tenth Day of August

1774 —Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums as they shall have so paid into said Treasuries, on or before the 20th. Day of December 1774 — And Four Pence on the Pound upon the Remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to collect, provided such Remainder shall be fully paid in, on or before the Second Monday in March 1775 — This Premium, as above expressed to be just & equitable, & an ample Allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with Diligence & Fidelity; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the Satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful Discharge of their Duty in said Office; and complying with this Vote. ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

Messrs. Edward Hollyday
Abraham Savage
Benjamin Henderson
Benjamin Gray — were chose

Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing. ——

Voted, that the Assessors be, & hereby are impowered to set for Abatement of such Taxes, as they shall judge reasonable, on every Wednesday untill the last Wednesday in April inclusive, & no longer, save that they be allowed to set the Two last Weeks in November, for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons, as had not an Opportunity of applying in the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Province, at which Time also they are allowed & impowered, to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April & last Day of November. ——

sent

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assesors, & upon sorting them it appear'd that ——

Mr. Benjamin Church
Mr. Daniel Parker
Deacon Jonathan Brown
Gyles Harris Esq.
Capt. Samuel Downe
Mr. William Lowder

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing ——

see page 26.

Mr. John Gray

was chosen a Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing

Messrs. William Nichols
Andrew Syms
Clement Collins
Henry Allen
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
Richard Walker
John Champney

John Bulfinch jun^{r}.
Abraham Howard
[483.] Joseph Butler
Joseph Ayres
Thomas Bayley
Andrew Townsend
Joseph Ballard
John Holland
John Rogers
Edmund Ranger
Thomas Uran
Elisha Homes
Obediah Low
Benjamin Page
Clement Collins jun^{r}.
Donely Wing
Henry Blaisdell
Abraham Rogers
Benjamin White
were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing
see Page 24

Messrs. John Joy
Obadiah Low
Samuel Dyer
John Dyer
William Crafts
were chose Fence-Viewers for the Year ensuing ——
Messrs. Samuel Bangs
Joseph Clark
Daniel Parks
Benjamin Bass
Thomas Noland
were chose Surveyors of Leather for the Year ensuing
Messrs. Thomas Edes
Adam Colson
were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.—
[484.] Messrs. Peter Cotta.
Menasseh Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Haskins
David Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Job Wheelwright
Joshua Pico
Benjamin Sault
Paul Baxter
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White
Edward Cowell
Peter Ellis (dead)
Timothy Pease

Nathaniel Waterman
Jacob Williams
Samuel Barnard (dead)
John Newell
Henry Lucas
Caleb Thayer
James Beard
Richard Flood
William Rogers
Samuel Peck

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing. ——

see Page 47.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday Morning 9 O'Clock. ——

Tuesday March 5th. 9 O'Clock A. M. Town met according to Adjournment

Messrs. David Simons - - - - (excused)
Benjamin Blake
Elijah Searl

were chose Hog-greeves for the Year ensuing.

Mr. William McFadden

was chosen a Hayward for the Year ensuing

[485.] Upon a Motion make & seconded, Voted, that

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill

be a Comittee to look into the Law relative to Scavingers, and to get such Amendment, or Addition made to said Law, as they may think necessary to enable those Officers to discharge their Duty in a proper Manner —— sent

		Wards.
Messrs.	Josiah Vose - - - - - - - - - - -	No. 1.
	Joseph Snelling - - - - - - - -	2 s
	Caleb Champney - - - - - - - -	3 s
	Freeman Pulcifer - - - - - - -	4 s
	John Lovel - - - - - - - - - -	5
	Joseph Loring - - - - - - - - -	6
	Charles - - - - - - - - -	7
	John Langdon - - - - - - - - -	8
	Samuel Warden - - - - - - - -	9 s
	John Fullerton - - - - - - - -	10
	Thomas Chase - - - - - - - - -	11
	Benjamin Wheeler - - - - - -	12

were chose Scavingers for the Year ensuing.——

The Town brought in their Votes for Five Wardens in the Room of those who had been excused from serving, and upon sorting them it appear'd, that

Messrs. Samuel Sellen
John Cotton
Samuel Bass

Capt. Nehemiah Tomes
Alexander Edwards (excused)
were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing. see Page 54.

The Town brought in their Votes for One Assessor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. Samuel Johnson
was chosen an Assessor for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. John White
John Lucas
were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing

[486.] Col. Joseph Jackson
Col. John Leveret
Mr. John Sweetser
were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired & impower'd to give all needful Direction to the Keeper of the Granary, respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, & affixing the Price thereof from Time to Time, as Occasion shall require; And the said Commtee are desired & directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be granted at the new Mills, near the Mill-Bridge now occupied by Mr. George Leonard

Capt. Martin Gay
Mr. John Skinner
were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing

The Selectmen
chosen Surveyers of the High Ways for the Year ensuing

Mr. James Blake
was chosen a Surveyer of Boards for the ensuing Year.

Mr. Henry Prentice
was chosen a Clerk of the Market for the ensuing Year

The Selectmen reported on the Account of Mr. Benja. Fenno, Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Accompt is entered in his Books (and on File in the Town Clerk's Office) was read, whereupon it was Voted that the same be accepted, and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 350 Bushells of Corn, & 26 Bushells of Rye, amounting to £67 ,, 15½. and also for the Sum of £104 ,, 18 ,, 8¼ Cash now in his Hands exclusive of the Sum of £32 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary & Attendance, as charged in this Account. which is hereby allowed him. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that ——

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. William Whitwell
Mr. Alexander Hill
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. Edward Payne

[487.] Be, and hereby are appointed a Committee to examine into the State of the Granary, & report the same, as also their Opinion, whether it will be expedient for the Town to continue the same sent.

Voted, that the Consideration of School-Masters Salaries and all other Salaries & Grants, be referred over to next May Meeting. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, That the Town Treas-

urer be, & hereby is impowered & directed to borrow, on Interest, a Sum not exceeding Three Hundred Pounds Lawful Money, for the Use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Alms-House. —— sent

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Town-Treasurer be, & hereby is directed and impower'd to give his negotiable Notes upon Interest to such of the Overseers of the Poor as are in Advance for the Relief of the Poor, for such Sums as appear to be due to them respectively, upon the Auditing of their of their Accompts to the present Month —— sent

Voted, that Mr. Edward Payne
Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Major Thomas Daws
Capt. Samuel Bradford

Be, & they hereby are appointed a Committee to audit the Accompts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, & also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, & the said Committee are impowered, when they shall Audit said Accompts, to allow such of the Overseers, as shall advance Money for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the Time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accompts; and they are also desired to report from Time to Time a State of the Treasury, respecting the Debts & Credits, & on any Matter, that they may think proper. ——

The Petition of Mr. Jacob Emmons,

"That an Allowance be made him for the extraordinary Damage he has sustained by taking down his Walls & Chimnies in Paddy Alley, after the late Fire, over & above what the Jury has assigned [488.] Him" was read, & after considerable Debate had thereon, The Question was put, Whether the Town will sustain the Petition. Passed in the Negative. ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock. P. M.

3 O'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment

The Petition of Mr. Thomas Walker, "for some Relief under the Charge occasioned him by the Wound his then Apprentice, Christopher Monk, received from Preston's Soldiers in the Massacre on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, was read & considered — whereupon it was moved that the Petition be dismissed, and it was accordingly dismissed. ——

The Petition of Capt. Amassa Davis, "That a Peice of the Town's Flatts now improv'd by him, & situated between the Fortification Walls & the Land improv'd by Mr. Byles may be Leased to him for a Number of Years," was read & consider'd — whereupon, Voted, That the same be accepted, & that the Selectmen be, & hereby are impower'd, to Lease the said Peice of Land to the Petitioner, upon such Terms as they shall think will be for the Interest of the Town. ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that

The Selectmen
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Jonah Quincy Esq

be a Comittee to enquire, how far Mr. Byles, has complied with his Lease, & to Report to the Town at May Meeting; as also what is proper to be done for the Security of the Land ——

The Petition of Mr. Samuel Hunt, Master of the North Grammar School, "That the same Encouragement may be given him, in the Article of House-Rent as is afforded the Master of the other Grammar School" was [489.] Read, & considered, Whereupon Voted, That the Sum of Thirty Pounds be, & hereby is allowed him, to enable him to provide a House for himself the present Year ——

The Committee on Mr. Gaven Brown's Petition, relative to a Clock, reported, but after long Debate had, as to the Propriety of this Reports being taken up, — It was Voted, That the Matter subside. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider of the Request of a Number of the Inhabitants, That the Incumbrances on Dock Square may be removed & Measures taken for filling up the Town-Dock, that so room may be made for the Standing of the Horses & Carts, of those Country People, who bring Provisions to Market, was read, & after Debate had thereon,

Voted, that Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
John Scollay Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
John Rowe Esq

be a Committee to take the same into Consideration, & report as soon as may be; & the Committee are hereby impower'd to treat with the Proprietors, if they have any Doubt, as to the Title of the Dock. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt "Whether the Town will take any Measures for providing a suitable Place, where the Carts & Sleds with Hay Fire-Wood &c. may be accomodated, and the Inhabitants of Corn-Hill thereby eased of that Incumbrance," was read & Debate had thereon

Whereupon

Voted, That Thomas Marshall Esq
Capt. Thomas Dalton, say James
Capt. John Joy
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Mr. William Whitwell

Be a Comittee to take this Matter into Consideration, & to report at the Adjournment what they think proper to be done. ——

[490.] That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider whether the Selectmen shall be authorized & impower'd to prosecute any Person or Persons, that have, or may encroach upon the Town's Land, or on the Streets or High Ways of the Town, was read & considered — Whereupon Voted, That the Selectmen for the Time being, as Agents of the Town, be, & they hereby are impowered to bring forward & prosecute in the Law any Suit, or Suits that may be necessary for Recovering their Right Title & Possession of, and in all such Lands, Tenements & Hereditaments, as are the Property of the Town; & also for the Removal of all

such Incumbrances, as have been, or may be made upon the Town's Land, Streets or High Ways; & this they are directed & impowered to do until final Judgment & Execution. ——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday the 30th of March instant 9 O'Clock A. M.

Wednesday Morning at 9 O'Clock Town met according to Adjournment.

The Town made Choice of John Rowe Esq. for a Moderator, Pro Tempore, in the Room of the Honble Thomas Cushing Esq. confined at Home by Illness, but Mr. Rowe desiring to be excused, John Hill Esq. was chosen a Moderator *pro Temp.* in his Room ——

Mr. John Smith
Mr. John Peirce Palmer

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

That Clause in the Warrant, Vizt., "Whether the Town will take any Measures for providing a suitable Place, where the Carts & Sleds with Hay, Fire-Wood &c. may be accomodated, & Inhabitants of Corn hill thereby eased of that Incumbrance," was read, & the Committee thereon acquainted the Town, "That they were not yet able to make Report," when they were desired to do it as soon as may be. ——

[**491.**] The Request of Mr. Miller, as inserted in the Warrant Vizt., That he may have Liberty, at his own Expence, to run a Head, or Wharf from his Land across the Bottom of Milk-Street, to improve it for Landing Lumber &c. & to pay the Town a Consideration for the Rent of it," was read, Whereupon, Voted, that

The Selectmen

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration, and to report as soon as may be ——

The Petition of Mr. Samuel Barrett & others, "That proper & legal Measures may be adoped for laying out a Street to lead from the Botton of Union-Street, below the Green Dragon, to the Bottom of Sudbury Street," was read, whereupon

Voted, That the Gentlemen the Selectmen be a Committee to Consider the Petition, & determine upon the same as they may think for the Advantage of the Town ——

The Petition of the Revd. John Christopher Hartwick setting forth,

"That your Petitioner came to this Town upon a Call of a Number of Inhabitants of the same, originally Germans, came to this Place upwards of Twenty Years ago, upon the Invitation of some notable Gentlemen of this Place promising them great Advantages — That by that Call your Petitioner is appointed spiritual Pastor over them — That your Petitioner findeth the Execution of his Office a very difficult Task upon several Accounts, especially for Want of a convenient House to meet in for Instruction & Divine Worship. — That the Members of his Congregation are generally poor, & unable either to purchase Ground or to build a House of Divine Worship. — Your Petitioner therefore begs Leave to observe to your Honors, that unless he is assisted in this respect by the Generous Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, he must give up his

Vocation & leave this People, without a Remedy, in the degenerate & deplorable [**492.**] State, in which he found them, & in which, in a great Measure they are yet, in which Case a Number of them may become a Burden to the Community, & a Stain to the glorious Character of the People of Boston, which would be a great Pity, as they are industrious People, and by proper Care may become an Ornament & Blessing to the Society, of which, by Divine Providence, they are become members, But your Petitioner hath Ground to hope better Things, from the Consideration, that the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston have deservedly the Name of a Religious, Generous & Hospitable People: That therefore they will consider, that this People is come among them, not slyly & surreptitiously, like the Gibeonites; that they, notwithstanding that, share the Fate of the Gibeonites, contrary to what they were made to expect: That they are Fellow-Protestants, built upon the Foundation of the Prophets & Apostles, of which Jesus Christ is the Chief Corner Stone, renouncing all Human Traditions & Popish Relicks. That every Member of a Body is under an Obligation to serve his Fellow-Members, with the Gifts he has received, as good Stewards of the manifold Grace of God: That it is the express Command of God to love the Strangers, as ourselves, considering that our Forefathers were also Strangers, & that God himself loveth Strangers: That People of a different Language residing in an *Imperium* is both Ornamental & Beneficial. — These & other Considerations, too tedious to be recited here, have emboldened your Petitioner, to lay his, & his Peoples Circumstances before your Honors, in Order to communicate them to the respectable Inhabitants in lawful Town Meeting assembled, humbly praying to take their pitiful Case into their most serious Consideration, & to assist them in the best Manner their Wisdom may suggest & their Charity move them to. ——

[**493.**] If my humble Opinion was asked, or I might be more particular in my humble Request, it is this: I am informed that in the Common, near the School-House, is a vacant & convenient Spot of Ground, on which a plain Meeting-House, without any Ornaments or Superfluities, might be built, if a public Collection in all the Churches was granted. The Ground remain under the Trust of the Selectmen, & the Reversion & remainder to the Town, & only the Use granted to your Petitioner & his Successors, being Evangelical Ministers of the Gospel, & the Evangelical Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in Communion with the Protestant Churches in Europe, who consent to & approve of the famous & Original Confession delivered to Charles the Fifth, Emperor of Germany, in a Diet of the States of the German Empire, & publicly read at Augsbourg in the Year of our Lord 1530.

But all this your Petitioner leaveth to your Honor's superior Knowledge & Wisdom, only begging to pardon his Freedom, to grant him the Privilege of your Favors & Protection. And for the Prosperity of your Town & Country, your Petitioner shall always pray." — was read, & after Debate had thereon,

Voted, that The Gentlemen the Selectmen
Benjamin Kent Esq.

Dr. Benjamin Church
Mr. Ezekiel Price

be a Committee to take this Petition into Consideration & report as soon as may be. ——

The Committee appointed to examine the Accompts of David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that service and find the same right cast & well vouched, in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents, & other Incomes of the Town; as also with the Tax of £7000, all which amount to the Sum of Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred & Forty Pounds Eleven Shillings & nine Pence Three Farthings, including the Ballance of old Account. ——

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors amounting to £708 ,, 12 ,, 9 [494.] By Drafts made on the Selectmen amounting to £4256 ,, 14 ,, 7¼ of which he has paid Thirty Eight Hundred Thirty Three Pounds Seven Shillings and Two Pence Farthing. ——

And by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Alms House amounting Thirty Three Hundred forty three pounds four Shillings & two pence, of which he has paid Twenty three Hundred & five Pounds thirteen shillings & ten pence — Also for sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to three hundred twenty nine pounds fifteen shillings & eight pence, the whole amounting to eight thousand six hundred & thirty eight Pounds eight shillings & six pence three farthings. ——

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, & have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the poor for the amount of their Drafts & every other Branch of public Charge, amounting in all, as above to eight thousand six hundred & thirty eight pounds eight shillings & six pence farthing, as by Account of Town Treasury in Town Treasurer's Books Ballance whereof being five thousand six hundred & two pounds three shillings & three pence is carried to the Credit of new Account. ——

Which Report & Account being read — Voted, that the same be, & hereby is accepted. ——

The Committee appointed to examine the Town Treasury Accompts reported a Memorandum of sundry Debts, supposed not good, which stands open in the Treasurer's Books,

viz[t].	Edward Hopkins - -	£ 1	,, —	,, ——
	Thomas Meulins's Estate	7	,, 13	,, 7
	Henry Lloyd Esq. - -	1	,, 17	,, 3
	Aaron Ramnell - - -	4	,, ——	
	Inorcas Blake's Estate -	" —	16	,, ,,
	Samuel Butler's Estate -	2	,, 19	,, 3
	John Wardell's Estate -	6	,, 8	,, 10
	Benjamin Hodgins Estate	"	16	,, ,,
	Charles Henley's Estate	18	,, ——	4¼
[495.]	Isaac Cazneau - - -	18	,, ——	4½
	John & Richard Billings	1	,, 11	,, 10
	Thomas Green - - -	"	16	,, ,,
	Isaac Dupee - - - -	1	,, 2	,, 3½
	Ephraim Copeland - -	"	19	,, 7
	Peter Cumber - - -	12	,, 12	,, 10

Whereupon Voted, That the Town Treasurer, Mr. David Jeffries be, & he hereby is directed to close those Accompts together with what Mr. Samuel Adams, a late Collector, erroneously stands Dr. for on Town Treasury Books. ——

Voted, That all Matters & things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the next general Town Meeting, to be then considered of and acted upon. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 30th. Day of March Anno Dom: 1774 3 O'Clock P.M. ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting, read ——

The Town having upon a Motion made Voted to choose a Moderator by Hand-Vote, William Phillips Esq. was accordingly chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt., "To determine whether the Town will purchase the new Clock lately made by Mr. Gawen Brown, & fix the same in the Steeple of the old South [**496.**] Church, and also the two Dials that are already there, and another that Mr. Brown proposes to put up on the West side of said Steeple, & agree upon the Terms, on which such Purchase shall be made" — was taken into Consideration, & after some Debate thereon, Voted, That the Town will grant the said Gawen Brown Eighty Pounds lawful Money towards purchasing said Clock & three Dials, which, with Eighty Pounds lawful Money more subscribed by several of the Inhabitants (Part of which he has already received) will in the Estimation of the Town, be the full Value of said Clock & three Dials, the Grant hereby made to be drawn for by the Selectmen, as soon as may be after said Clock & Dials are fixt in said Steeple to their Satisfaction, provided said Brown give, Security to the Selectmen that he will keep said Clock in good Order and winde up the same at his own Expence for Seven Years after said Clock & Dials are there fixed; the third Dial to be of the same Size with the other two Dials ——

Also Voted

That the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to take a Bill of Parcels of Mr. Brown for the Clock & Dials, together with a Receipt in full, that it may hereafter appear to be the Property of the Town. ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. having sent in his Desire to the Town, that he might be excused from serving any longer as a Fire-Ward, on Account of his Health; he was accordingly excused. ——

Upon a Motion made Voted unanamously, That the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Honble John Hancock Esq. for his good Services as a Fire-Ward, a Number of Years past.——

[**497.**] The Committee appointed by the Town of Boston for procuring & erecting Lamps, beg leave to report, and they accordingly do report ——

That they received of the Treasurer out of the Monies subscribed and paid for the Purpose £120 Sterling, with which they procured & sent to Mr. John Boylston Merchant in London a Bill of Exchange for £90 Sterling

That Mr. Boylston procured & sent Lamps & Tin to the Amount of £77 ,, 3 ,, 6 sterling, in which he did not charge any Commissions, or any thing for his Trouble, & moreover, he made such an Interest with the Captain as to obtain their being brought free of the Charge of Freight, all which has made a considerable Saving to the Town. ——

That the whole Number of Lamps erected under the Direction of the Committee amounts to three hundred & Ten. ——

That the whole Sum received of, & drawn upon the Treasurer for, amounts to £450 ,, 7 ,, 3, as by Account of Particulars hereto annexed ——

That there still remains in the Hands of Mr. John Boylston Merchant in London the Sum of £12 ,, 16 ,, 6 sterling to be accounted for by him, & in the hands of the Committee 59 Globe Glasses — 665 Tin Plates and 6lb weight of Oakum which are ready to be delivered to the Order of the Town

all which is humbly submitted

John Rowe p Order

The foregoing Report having been read, the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative

Upon a Motion made Voted, that

John Rowe Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
The Moderator

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up a Vote of Thanks to Mr. John Boylston, to be reported, before the same is transmitted. ——

[**498.**] Voted, that this Meeting be, & hereby is adjourned to Fryday the 8th. Day of April next, 3 O'Clock P. M.

Fryday April 8th. 1774, 3 O'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment. ——

Mr. Robert Breck

was chosen a Culler of Hoops & Staves for the Year ensuing ——

The Committee appointed to receive the Money subscribed for purchasing of Lamps, report

That they have attended that Business, & received of the persons, whose Names are mentioned in the Lists of the several Wards, herewith delivered, the Sum of five Hundred & twenty four Pounds eleven shillings, & eight pence, which, agreeable to the Vote of the Town, they have paid into the Town Treasury.

That there are some other Subscribers who have not paid their Subscriptions, but when received are likewise to be paid into the Treasury. ——

And that there are a Number who have subscribed to give Lamps, & others, whose Subscriptions are to be paid in Work, as mentioned in said Lists; the Names of whom and their particular

Subscriptions have likewise been given to the Committees appointed to purchase and erect the Lamps £ 524 ,, 11 ,, 8 ——

JA^{s}. RICHARDSON p Order

The above Report having been read, the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative. ——

The Selectmen being appointed a Committee to consider the Petition of M^{r}. Samuel Barrett & others, that a street might be laid out, extending from the Bottom of Union Street to the End of Sudbury Street, do report as their Opinion,

That it will not be of any Advantage to the Town to have any other Street, than what the Abbuters on the Land between [**499.**] The Street called Friend Street & Cold Lane, have already laid out, unless the Owners of the Land between Union Street, and Friend Street, & from Cold Lane to Sudbury Street, are inclined to lay out a Street through their Land, at their own Expence, in which Case they think it best that they may be permitted to lay out One accordingly. ——

JOHN SCOLLEY, p Order

The foregoing Report having been read & considered — the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative. ——

The Committee appointed to take into Consideration the Petition of the Rev^{d}. M^{r}. John Christopher Hartwick, in behalf of a Number of German Families being in this Town for Assistance in building a small House for Public Worship — Reported,

That having met & considered the same, they are of Opinion, That one half Part of the Building now improved as a Granary, be allowed the Petitioners by them to be used & improv'd as a Place for the public Worship of God, the same to be leased to them for such a Term of Years, & upon Conditions as the Town shall think proper — The Comittee would beg Leave to recomend, that a Brief be sent to the Ministers of the several Churches & Congregations, in the Town for farther Aid and Assistance to the Petitioners, by a public Contribution in the several Churches & Congregations, an Estimate being first made of the Sum necessary to be raised for the Relief of the Petitioners. ——

The foregoing Report having been read, and some Debate had thereon, it was voted, that the farther Consideration of said Report be referr'd over to May Meeting & that the same be inserted in the Warrant that shall be issued for said Meeting ——

[500.] The Committee appointed to draw up a Vote of Thanks to M^{r}. John Boylston Merchant in London, for his Services to this Town in purchasing a Number of Lamps & shipping them from London, — Reported the following Draft

John Rowe Esq. Chairman of the Comittee, appointed the 5th. day of May 1773 to procure Lamps &^{c}. from London to be fixt in such parts of the Town, as said Comittee should judge proper for enlightening the same, made Report of their Proceedings in Writing thereon; & at the same Time informed the Town, that the said Comittee had employed M^{r}. John Boylston, late of this Town Merchant, now residing in London, to purchase said Lamps —

That Mr. Boylston very readily & chearfully undertook this Service — That he purchased the Lamps very cheap — That he took great Care in the Packing & shipping of them —& got them transported & shipped from London free of Freight and that he will not accept of any Comission for his Trouble in this Affair, nor for some Expence he has been at in Transacting the same ——

The Town taking this Representation into their Consideration, & having a grateful sense of Mr. Boylston's great Care & Generosity in this Affair, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Mr. Boylston for the same.

The foregoing Report having been read, the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative unanimously. Also Voted

that William Phillips Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Comittee to transmit the foregoing Vote, attested by the Town Clerk to the said Mr. Boylston as soon as may be. ——

[**501.**] Upon a motion made, Voted, that John Rowe Esq. be desired to write Mr. Boylston that the Ballance remaining in his Hands may be sent in Lamps so soon as conveniently may be ——

John Rowe Esq. having offered in this Meeting to allow the Town Twenty Shillings p hundred for all the Oakum remaining in his hands, of that which was sent by Mr. Boylston, it was Voted, that this Offer be accepted, & that Mr. Rowe be desired to pay the Amount thereof to Mr. Town Treasurer ——

The Town Clerk having laid before the Town, the Doings of his Majesty's Justices, & the Gentlemen the Selectmen of Boston, together with the Return of the Jury appointed to make Assessments &c. relative to the new Street in Paddy's Alley — Voted, That the Clerk be directed to record the same in the Town Book of Record — Memo. all on File — see Page 552 —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Fire Ward in the room of the Honble. John Hancock Esq. who has declined serving on Account of his Health; & upon sorting the same it appeared that

Ezekiel Cheever Esq.

was chosen a Fire Ward for the Year ensuing ——

That Article in the Warrant for March Meeting, Vizt. "Whether the Town will purchase the Buildings erected by Mr. Robert Pierpoint on the Town Land adjoining to the Fortification," being referr'd over for Consideration to this Meeting, the same was taken up by the Town, and after some Debate had thereon,

Voted, that William Phillips Esq.
Mr. Edward Payne
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Ezekiel Price

[**502.**] Be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee to take this Article of the Warrant into Consideration & report their Opinion relative thereto at the General Town Meeting in May next ——

Mr. Alexander Edwards, who was chosen one of the Wardens for the ensuing Year, having declined serving in that Office, was accordingly excused by the Town. ——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Warden and upon sorting them, it appeared, that

Capt. Andrew Symmes junr.

was chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing. ——

Agreeable to the *Venire* for the Choice of Jurymen for April Court, received from the Clerk of Sessions, the Town proceeded to the Choice of Six Jurors, by drawing them out of the Box, when,

Mr. John Box junr.
William Wane
Benjamin Andrews junr.
John McClane
Edward Winter Calf
Joseph Richardson

were drawn Jurors for April Court, & the *Venire*, with the Names of those Persons were given to one of the Constables. ——

Voted, That all Matters & things, which remain unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the next General Town Meeting be then considered of, & acted upon ——

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to William Phillips Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for his good Services therein. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[503.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on Wednesday the 10th. day of May 1774. ——

Prayer was made by the Reverend Mr. John Lathrop.

The Precept & Warrant for calling the Meeting read ——

Sundry Laws - - - - - - - - - - - read ——

Mr. Timothy Newell, one of the Selectmen proposed, in their Names, to the assembled Inhabitants, to proceed to the Choice of One, or more Persons to represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembly, to be held at the Town House in Boston, upon Wednesday the 25th. day of May Current, & in order thereto to consider, & ascertain the Number of Gentlemen to be Elected: Accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the Choice of Four Representatives, & then it was declared by the Selectmen That no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded; and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock ——

The Votes being brought in for Four Representatives the Number of the same was found to be five hundred and thirty Six, & upon sorting them it appeared that the four following Gentlemen were chosen — Vizt.

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - - - -	524
Mr. Samuel Adams - - - - - - - -	535
The Honble. John Hancock Esq. - - - - - - - -	536
William Phillips Esq. - - - - - - -	534

The Choice of Representatives being over, & declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, & bring in

their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in Order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant [**504.**] Accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, & brought in their Votes, & upon sorting them it appeared that Mr. Samuel Adams was chosen ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "Whether the Inhabitants will give Instructions to the Representatives that may be chosen," was read — and 4 O'Clock Afternoon was assigned for the Consideration of said Article. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M. ——

To the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of Boston, in Town Meeting assembled May 10th. 1774.

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston, at their annual Meeting the 5th. day of May last, desiring the Selectmen to visit the public Schools in the Town, & to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein, as they shall think proper, & to report thereon. ——

We, the Subscribers accordingly attended that Service on the 7th. day of July last, & the following Gentlemen were invited to accompany us therein. Vizt.

The Honble. John Ervin Esq.
James Bowdoin Esq.
Samuel Pitts Esq.
Dr. John Winthrop
The Representatives of the Town
The Overseers of the Poor
The Town Treasurer
The Revd. Charles Chauncey D.D.
Mather Byles D.D.
Andrew Eliot D.D.
Samuel Cooper D.D.
Ebenezer Pemberton D.D.
Samuel Mather D.D.
[**505.**] John Hunt
John Bacon
John Lathrop
Simeon Howard
Mr. How
Mr. Gordon of Roxbury
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Mr. William Payne
Mr. John Leach
Mr. Benja. Goodwin
Mr. John Boynton
Mr. Samuel Eliot
Mr. John Scollay junr.
Thomas Brattle Esq.
John Missling Esq. of Philadelphia
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton
Mr. Henderson Inches
Isaac Smith Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.

Mr. Alexander Hill
Capt. Fortisque Vernon
Capt. Solomon Davis
Benja. Kent Esq.
Joseph Scott Esq.
Capt. John Bradford
John Adams Esq.
Mr. Moses Gill
Dr. Belcher Noyes
Mr. Jona. Amory
Dr. Benja. Church
Capt. Mackay
Dr. Thomas Bulfinch
Dr. John Greenleaf
Mr. Josiah Quincy
John Phillips Esq.
Mr. Henry Bromfield
Dr. Joseph Warren
Major Thomas Daws
[506.] Mr. Michael Homer
Mr. Henry Laughton
Col. John Erving
John Fenton Esq.
Mr. William Dennie
Mr. William Mollineux

and found the South Grammar School had 139 Schollars The North Grammar School 60 Scholars The North Writing School 240 Scholars: The writing School in Queen Street 280 Scholars, all in very good Order

JOHN SCOLLAY
TIMOTHY NEWELL
THOMAS MARSHALL
JOHN PITTS
} Selectmen of Boston.

Voted, that the Selectmen be, & they hereby are appointed to act upon the List of Jurors. ——

The Comittee appointed to consider that Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "Whether the Town will purchase the Buildings erected by Mr. Robert Pierpoint in the Town's Lands adjoining to the Fortification," Report, That they have viewed the Town's Lands near the Fortification, & the Buildings erected thereon by Mr. Peirpoint & upon mature Consideration, are of Opinion, that it will not be for the Interest of the Town to purchase said Buildings. ——

The Comitte would farther report, that they have measured the Town's Lands, & find that there is Sixty three feet without the Gate in Length, within the Bastions Forty two feet in Length, within the Gate, which is improved by Mr. Robert Pierpoint on the west side, & Sixty nine feet in Length on the East Side, as also Ninety two feet on the West Side in length. that is improved by Messrs. Tuckerman, Blake & Faxon, & Sixty two feet on the East Side in Length, that is improved by Messrs. Davis & Curtis; that those Lands at present fetch in but a Small Rent, tho'. in the

Opinion of the Comittee said Lands are of a considerate Value, & if said may be much for the Interest of the Town. ——

All which is submitted, in the Name of the Comittee

Wᵐ. Phillips, p Order.

[507.] The foregoing Report having been read & considered, whereupon Voted, that the same be so far accepted, as it will not be for the Interest of the Town to purchase said Buildings. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizᵗ., "What is proper to be done with the Lands belonging to the Town, adjoining to the Fortification, & *within* the same on both Sides the Street, was read, & Debate had thereon — whereupon moved, & Voted, that a Comittee of Eleven Persons be raised, to consider of the State of all the Lands of the Town, both within & without the Fortification & near adjoining thereto, & that said Committee be impowered & directed to make Entry on all, or any Part of said Lands, and thereof to take full Seizin & Possession, in the Name & Behalf of the Town; & in Case all, or any of the Trespassers or Occupiers — thereof are willing to surrender, or Compromise with the Town, that such Comittee be impowered to comply with all reasonable Offers, at the Direction of said Comittee, so as that they do not proceed to alienate any Part of the Premisses in Fee for Life or Years — also

Voted, that John Scollay Esq.
The Honᵇˡᵉ. John Hancock Esq.
Mʳ. Timothy Newell
Thomas Marshall Esq.
Mʳ. Samuel Austin
Mʳ. Oliver Wendell
Mʳ. John Pitts
Josiah Quincey Esq.
John Adams Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee for the Purpose aforesaid.

That Article in the Warrant, Vizᵗ. "Whether the Town will give Instructions to the Gentlemen, that may be chosen to represent them in the next General Assembly," was read — and considered, whereupon Voted, that

Dʳ. Benjamin Church
John Adams Esq.
Dʳ. Joseph Warren
[508.] Benjamin Kent Esq.
Josiah Quincey Esq.
Dʳ. Young
Mʳ. James Lovel

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee to prepare Instructions to our Representatives, and report at the Adjournment

The Report of the Comittee on the Revᵈ. Mʳ. Hartwick's Petition laid before the Town by the Comittee to whom said Petition was referred at the March Meeting which Report is to be considered at this Time, was again read; & the further Consideration referred, till the Report of the Comittee on the State of the Granary be laid before the Town.

The Comittee appointed the 14th. of March last, to examine into the State of the Granary, & report the same, & also their Opinion, whether it will be expedient for the Town to continue the same now; Report,

That they have, so far as it was in their Power, examined into the State of the Granary, & cannot find that any regular Accompts, or Entries have been made in any Books, either by the Purchasers of Grain or by the Keeper of the Granary, of the Quantities of Grain bought in each Year; therefore cannot ascertain the Gain or Loss in the Measure. ——

The Comittee have examined so far back as they were able, & find by the Papers laid before them, by Mr. John Fenno, Keeper of the Granary, that the Quantity of Corn & Rye, purchased by the Comittee from March 1769 to March 1774 amounted to 5836 Bushells, & that he had sold out in that time 5060 Bushells, & there then remained in his hands only 376 Bushells, by which it appears there was a Loss in the Measure of the Corn of 400 Bushells which is 7 p Cent, but there was no Loss in the Rye

[509.] The Committee have also examined the Amounts of the Charges that have arisen for the last five Years, & find that the Measuring, Carting, Keeper's Allowance &c. amount to £238 ,, 10 ,, 1 lawful Money, which is Six Shillings & Six Pence half penny old Tenor p. Bushell on the whole quantity that was purchased in said five Years, exclusive of the 400 Bushells lost in the Measure, which being added makes it 8¼ old Tenor p Bushell on the whole quantity laid in the last five Years. The quantity sold last Year was only 605 Bushells, & the Town Stock being now so very small, and the Keeper's Salary & Allowance, with other Expences being so great, out of such a Stock, the Comittee are of Opinion, that it will not be for the Interest of the Town, to keep said Granary open the remainder of the Year, under the present Regulations ——

The Committee would inform the Town, that upon Examination into the State of the Granary, they find, that in March in the Year 1752, they had a Stock of £380 ,, 18 ,, 1 which, in ten Years, vizt. in March 1762 encreased to £486 ,, 15 ,, 3 lawful Money, over & above all Charges, but since it has been annually decreasing, till now it is reduced to about £150 —— The Reasons for which, the Committee, after a very strict Enquiry cannot assign. — All which is submitted by

Ezekiel Goldthwait
William Whitwel
John Rowe
Alexander Hill
Edward Payne

Which Report being accepted by the Town ——

On a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Selectmen be, & hereby are directed and impowered to lend Mr. John Fenno the Stock of Grain belonging to the Town, now in the Granary, at the Market Price, as also the Money belonging to the Town, now in the hands of the said Fenno, the Selectmen taking Security for the Payment of the whole in the Month of March next; — [510.] Mr

Fenno keeping the Granary always open on the usual Days, & having Liberty to open the same upon such other Days as he may think proper. ——

October 6th 1790

The Select Men having examined the Accots. of Mr. Fenno are of opinion that there is nothing due from Mr. Fenno to town

By order John Scollay

Also Voted, that the foregoing Committee on the tate of the Granary, be desired to set again, & that they consider of a proper Place for the future Regulations of a Town Granary; as also to receive such Proposals or Plans us may be made & given in, & to Report next March Meeting

The Report of the Committee on the Reverend Mr. Hartwick's Petition, read again, and after considerable Debate had thereon ——

Voted, that the Petitioner have Leave to withdraw his Petition. ——

The Petition of Mr. David Jeffries, Town Treasurer, praying an Allowance for Reasons set forth in said Petition, was read & considered; whereupon

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty Pounds p Annum be added to the Town Treasurer's annual Salary ——

The Petition of Mr. George Leonard, "for Liberty to erect a Grist-Mill, or Mills on Fort-Hill, on a new Construction & to build proper Rollers for the Breaking of Matt, the Usefulness of which Undertaking is set forth in said Petition;" was read, & after debate had thereon, the Question was put, "Whether the Prayer of said Petition be granted, — which passed in the Negative

Upon a Motion made & seconded, the Question was put — Whether the said Petition of Mr. George Leonard be dismissed — Passed in the Affirmative

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Fryday next 10 O'Clock A. M.

[**511.**] Fryday May 13th. 1774 — 10 O'Clock A. M. met Met according to Adjournment ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "Whether there shall be a Survey made, & a Plan drawn of all the Town's Lands," was read, whereupon Voted, That the Consideration of that Article be referred to next March Meeting ——

That Article in the Warrant, vizt. "Whether the Selectmen shall be impowered to appoint one or more Persons to prevent firing small Arms on the Neck, whereby the Limbs & Lives of the Inhabitants, have been greatly endangered; & also to remove any Incumbrances or Nuisances, which may hereafter be laid thereon," was read & considered; whereupon

Voted, That the Selectmen be instructed to impower a suitable Person to see that the Laws are carried into Execution against those who shall presume to discharge Fire Arms on Boston Neck, or shall lay any Incumbrances thereon ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "The Petition of a Number of the Inhabitants, That a public Well may be dug, & a Pump fixed upon Dock Square, for the further Preservation of the Town

from Fire; & the Accomodation of the Inhabitants in that Neighbourhood with Water," was read, whereupon, Voted, that

William Phillips Esq.
John Leveret Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Jonathan Williams Esq
Mr. William Whitwel

be a Committee to take the Petition into Consideration, & to report at next March Meeting

[**512.**] Upon a Motion made Voted, That the Consideration of Schoolmaster's Salaries, & all other Salaries & Grants, be referred to the first Monday of July next 10 O'Clock. ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, That the Grant of Monies for Town Charges be referred to the Adjournment of this Meeting ——

The Petition of Mr. Samuel Holbrook, Master of the South Writing School, "That he may be considered in the Article of House Rent, & allowed for Providing Assistance — what was granted to late Ushers," whereupon

Voted That the Consideration of this Petition be referred to the Adjournment of this Meeting. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To determine upon proper Methods for preserving Beacon Hill," was read ——

Voted, That the Consideration hereof be referred to the Ad-adjournment of this Meeting. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that all Matters & Things, not acted upon, be referred to the Adjournment of this Meeting. ——

Voted, That this Meeting be, and hereby is adjourned to the 1st. Monday of July next 10 O'Clock ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on Fryday the 13th. Day of May 11 O'Clock

[**513.**] Warrant for Calling the Meeting read.

The Town was desired to bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, & upon sorting them it appeared that Mr. Samuel Adams was chosen ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, That this Meeting be opened with Prayer, & that the following Gentlemen, Vizt.

William Phillips Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Barrett Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.
Mr. William Whitwel

be a Committee to wait upon Dr. Cooper & acquaint him that it is the Desire of the Town, that he would open this Meeting with Prayer; & in Case he should not be readily found, that they then invite Dr. Chauncey, or any other Minister they shall think proper to perform that Service ——

Voted, That the Port Bill be read, and it was read accordingly ——

The Committee to wait on Dr. Cooper Reported that they had informed him of the Request of the Town, & had received for Answer, That tho' he was just returned fatigued from a Journey, he would yet comply with the Orders of the Town in giving his immediate Attendance ——

Prayer was made by the revd. Dr. Cooper agreable to the Request of the Town ——

The Article in the Warrant, vizt. "To consider what Measures are proper to be taken upon the present Exigency of our public Affairs, more especially relative to the late *Edict* of a British Parliament for Blocking up the Harbor of Boston, & annihilating the Trade of this Town," was read — whereupon a Motion was made, "That a Committee be appointed to [**514.**] Take the Act of Parliament referred to into Consideration and Report their Sense of what Measures are proper to be taken upon the present Exigency ——

After some Debate upon the Motion made, it was moved & Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P. M.

3 O'Clock Town met according to Adjournment

The Motion for a Committee to take into Consideration the Act, intitled the Boston Port-Bill, was again taken up ——

By Order of the Town a Letter from Marblehead was read. ——

A Motion made for a Committee to write a Circular Letter to the several Towns of this Province, & to the several Colonies, acquainting them with the present State of our Affairs. ——

Moved & Voted, Nem. Cont. that

Mr. Samuel Adams
John Rowe Esq.
Thomas Boylston Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
John Adams Esq.
Josiah Quincey Esq.
The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
Mr. William Mollineux
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee to take the several Proposals, that have been made, & others that may be made, relative to our Conduct on the present Exigency, into their Consideration, & report, as soon as may be, their Opinion

On a Motion made, Voted, Nem. Cont. that a Comittee be appointed to repair to the Town of Salem and [**515.**] Marblehead, to communicate with them upon the present Exigency of Affairs, and that

Mr. Oliver Wendell
Mr. John Pitts
Mr. William Dennie
Mr. William Powell
Mr. Isaac Smith

be, and hereby are appointed a Committee to take that Purpose ——

Mr. Edward Payne Merchant informing the Town that he was upon setting out on a Journey Eastward — he was desired to exert himself to promote the Success of said Committee ——

Voted, that the Committee of Correspondence be desired to dispatch Messengers with all possible Speed to the other Colonies, & the several Towns in this Province, charged with the Letters & they have wrote relative to shutting up this Harbour &c ——

Upon a Motion made the Letters wrote by the Committee of Correspondence to the several Towns in this Province on the Subject aforementioned, were read ——

Voted, Nem. Con. that it is the Opinion of this Town, that if the other Colonies come into a joint Resolution, to stop all Importations from Great Britain & Exportations to Great Britain, & every part of the West Indies, till the Act for Blocking up this Harbor be repealed, the same will prove the Salvation of North America & her Liberties: On the other Hand, if they continue their Exports & Imports, there is high Reason to fear, that Fraud, Power & the most Odious Oppression, will rise triumphant over Right, Justice, Social Happiness & Freedom — And moreover, that this Vote be forthwith transmitted by the Moderator to all our Sister Colonies in the Name & behalf of this Town

Also Voted, That the Moderator be desired to when he transmits the foregoing Vote, to give a Narrative of the News & Intelligence we have lately, & this Day received, and [**516.**] The Town Clerk is directed to serve the Committee of Correspondence for Salem with a Copy of this Vote. ——

A Motion made & passed, that every Gentleman, who has Friends & Correspondents in the other Sea Port Towns & the Colonies, that they be desired to write Letters to such Correspondents, strongly recommending their coming into the Measures of this Vote. ——

The Gentlemen of Rhode Island Government in the Meeting, were desired to use their Influence; that their Province may second the Measures of this Town in the present Exigency ——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next, being the 18th. Instant, 10 O'Clock A.M.

Wednesday May 18th. 1774, 10 O'Clock A.M. met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed by this Town, "To repair to Marblehead & Salem to Communicate to them on the present Exigency of Affairs," Do report, That they proceeded on that Business, & discoursed with the Selectmen & other Gentlemen of both Towns, who discovered a Disposition to aid & support us in the present Struggle for our invaded Rights; & for that Purpose the Selectmen of each Town gave their Assurance, that their respective Towns would have a Meeting forthwith; the Result of which they would immediately forward to the Selectmen of Boston.

OLIVER WENDELL P. Order

The Moderator of this Meeting laid before the Town a Letter sent

him by Mr. James Bois of Milton, in which he makes an Offer to the Town of the Use of his Slitting Mills at Milton, & the Utensils belonging to the same, for the Employment of our Blacksmiths, "during the Blockade of Boston," by a British Fleet & Army & the same having been read ——

[**517.**] Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & they hereby are given to Mr. James Bois for his kind Offer of the Slitting Mill & Utensils, upon the present Emergencies of the Inhabitants ——

The Comittee appointed on Fryday last to receive Proposals &c Report verbally that they had received several Proposals & plans, which appeared to them very likely to promote the Ease of those Inhabitants who may be brought into Distress by the Operation of the detested Port-Bill but that not having had time to digest those Plans, they asked Leave to set again, & report at the Adjournment, when having heard from the other Colonies, they will be better able to make said Report.

The Town Clerk was directed to desire the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. to attend with Part of a written Report of the Committee to receive Proposals &c ——

The Moderator informed the Inhabitants that agreable to the Order of the Town he had enclosed an attested Copy of Town Votes in Letters to the several Provinces, by Mr. Reviere, who set out last Saturday, & that he should forward Copies as Opportunities presented ——

Mr. Speaker Cushing attended & informed the Town that he had not written Report of the Comittees; on Ways & Means ——

An Act of the British Parliament was read entitled, an Act to discontinue, in such Manner, & for such Time, as are therein mentioned, the Landing and discharging, loading or Shipping of Goods, Ware & Merchandize, at the Town within the Harbor of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in North America — and thereupon Voted; unanimously, 1st. That the Trade of the Town of Boston has been an essential Link in that vast Chain of Commerce, which in the Course of a few Ages, has raised New England to be what it is, the Southern Provinces to be what they are, the West India Islands to their Wealth &, in One Word, the British Empire, to that Height of Opulence, Power, Pride & Splendor, at which it now stands. — 2ly. That the Impolicy, Injustice, Inhumanity, & Cruelty, of the Act aforesaid, exceed all our Powers of Expression & Conception, we therefore leave it to the just Censure of others, & appeal to God & the World. ——

Also Voted, That the above Notes be entered upon the Records of the Town ——

Voted, that the Comittee to receive Proposals and Plans, & to consult Ways & means for the Relief of the Poor, be desired to sit again.

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 30th. Instant 10 O'Clock A.M. ——

May 30th. 1774. 10 O'Clock. Met according to Adjournment. ——

The Committee to receive Proposals & to consider of Ways & Means to employ the Poor, acquaint the Town, they they were not able to report at present — they were therefore desired to sit again. ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, That when this Meeting be adjourned, it shall be to Fryday the 17th. day of June 10 O'Clock. ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, That the Comittee appointed to receive Proposals & consider of Ways & Means, be desired to prepare a Paper, to be carried to each Family in the Town, the Report of which to be, not to purchase any Articles of British Manufactures, that can be obtained among Ourselves, & that they will purchase Nothing of, but totally desert those who shall Counter-work the Salutary Measures of the Town.

Voted, That the Comittee of Correspondence be & hereby are directed, to communicate the Non Consumption Agreement aforesaid to the other Towns in the Province.

Adjourned to June 17. 10 O'Clock Forenoon ——

[519.] June 17th. 10 O'Clock, Town met agreeable to the Adjournment of the above Meeting, from 30th. May to this day.

Mr. Samuel Adams the Moderator, being at Salem, attending the Business of the General Court, the Town proceeded to the Choice of a *Pro Tempore* Moderator, when the Honble. James Bowdoin Esq. was chosen unanamously; *and* a Committee of three Gentlemen was sent to inform him, who Reported, that he was from Home — John Rowe Esq. was then chosen, but Business preventing his Attendance, the Votes, it appeared, that the Honble. John Adams Esq. was chosen, and being informed of it by the above Committee, he gave his Attendance accordingly. ——

Dr. Warren, one of the Comittee on Ways & Means, acquainted the Town, that they thought it best to defer making Report, till they had heard from the other Governments, whereupon they were directed to set again. ——

Upon a Motion made the Town again entered into the Consideration of the Article in the Warrant, Vizt., "To consider & determine what Measures are proper to be taken upon the present Exigency of our public Affairs, more especially relative to the late Edict of the British Parliament for Bocking up the Harbour of Boston, & annihilating the Trade of this Town," and after very serious Debates thereon ——

Voted, (with only one Dissentient) That the Comittee of Correspondence be enjoined forthwith to write to all the other Colonies, acquainting them that we are not idle, that we are deliberating upon the Steps to be taken on the present Exigencies of our public Affairs; that our Brethren the landed Interest of the Province, with an unexampled Spirit and Unanimity, are entring into a Non-Consumption agreement; [520.] And that we are waiting with anxious Expectation for the Result of a Continental Congress; whose Meeting we impatiently desire, & in whose Wisdom & Firmness we can Confide, & in whose Determinations we shall chearfully acquiesce ——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P. M. ——

3 O'Clock P. M. Met according to Adjournm^{t}.

Agreeable to Order the Committee of Correspondence laid before the Town such Letters as they had received in Answer to the Circular Letter, wrote by them to the several Colonies, & also to the Sea-Port Towns in this Province, since the Receipt of the Boston Port Bill, & the same being publickly read — Whereupon ——

Voted, unanimously, That our warmest Thanks be transmitted to our Brethren on the Continent for that Humanity, Sympathy & Affection, with which they have been inspired, & which they have expressed towards this distressed Town, at this important Season

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to the Committee of Correspondence to their Faithfulness, in the Discharge of their Trust, & that they be desired to continue their Vigilance & Activity in that Service ——

Whereas the Overseers of the Poor in the Town of Boston are a Body politic by Law constituted for the Receipt & Distribution of all charitable Donations for the use of the Poor of said Town ——

Voted, that all Grants and Donations to this Town & the Poor thereof at this distressed Season, be paid & Delivered into the Hands of the Overseers & by them [**521.**] Appropriated & distributed, in Concert with the Committee lately appointed by this Town for the Consideration of the Ways & Means of Employing the Poor ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that the Clerk be directed to Publish the Proceedings ——

Adjourned to June 27th. 10 O'Clock A. M.

Port Bill adjournment.

Met agreeable to Adjournment June 27th. 10 °Clock A.M.

M^{r}. Samuel Adams in the Chair ——

Moved & seconded that the Committee of Correspondence be desired to lay the Letters they have wrote to the other Towns and Governments since the Receipt of the Port Bill, — the question being put — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to the Old South Meeting House, the Hall not being sufficient to contain all the Inhabitants assembled. ——

M^{r}. William Mollineux
M^{r}. William Cooper
D^{r}. Benj^{a}. Church

appointed a Committee to wait upon the Proprietors Committee of that House for leave to make Use of it.

The Town being again met according to Adjournment — A Motion was made & passed, That all Letters received as well as the Answers returned, be laid before the Town and read ——

After the Town Clerk had accordingly read a Number of Letters, a Motion was made that the said Vote be so far Reconsidered, as that the Reading of all other Letters previous to the Covenant sent into the Country by the Committee of Correspondence, & the Letters accompanying the same, be suspended for the present, & that the Town proceed to the Reading of said Letter & Covenant, & any other Letters that may be particularly called for ——

The said Covenant & a Number of Letters having been read, a Motion was made, that some Censure be now passed [**522.**] By the Town on the Conduct of the Committee of Correspondence; and that said Committee be annihilated ——

Mr. Adams, the Moderator, then moved, that as the Conduct of the Committee of Correspondence for this Town, of which he had the Honor of being a Member, is now to be considered, another Moderator might be chosen *Pro Tempore.*

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was accordingly chosen Moderator during that Debate ——

The Motion for Censuring & annihilating the Committee of Correspondence was considerd & the Gentlemen in favor of the Motion patiently heard; but it being dark; and these declaring that they had farther to offer ——

Voted, that the Consideration thereof be referred to the Adjournment ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday next 10 O'Clock ——

Tuesday June 28. 10 O'Clock met according Adjournment ——

The Motion for Censuring & Annihilating the Committee of Correspondence again Considered, & after long Debates the Question was accordingly put; which passed in the Negative by a great Majority ——

It was then moved, that the following Vote be passed, Viz^t. "That the Town bear open Testimony that they are abundantly satisfied of the upright Intentions, and much approve the honest Zeal of the Committee of Correspondence & desire that they would persevere with their usual Activity & Firmness, continuing stedfast in the Way of well Doing — And the Question being put, passed in the Affirmative by a *Vast Majority*

[**523.**] The Committee on Ways & Means for employing the Poor acquaint the Town, that they had met, & had received very encouraging Accounts of the Readiness of their Sister Colonies to assist us; & various Proposals from Sundry Persons for employing the Poor, upon which they were deliberating, but were not yet prepared to Report — They therefore required further Time to Report, which was allowed them ——

Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair ——

A Motion made that this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday the 19th. of July 10 O'Clock A M. to meet at Faneuil Hall, and the Meeting was adjourned accordingly. ——

May Meeting Adjournment

Monday July 4th 10 O'Clock Town met according to Adjournment. ——

Moved & seconded, that the Vote lately passed, — referring the Consideration of the Petition of a Number of the Inhabitants, That there might be a public Well on Dock Square, be now reconsidered, & that the Town now be Dug &c. after some Debate the Motion was withdrawn

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Thanks of this Town be, & hereby are given to our worthy Friends of the

Town of Windham for their late generous Donation to those People in this Town, who are now Suffering by the Operation of the Boston Port Bill, so called. ——

Moved & Voted, That the Consideration of Grants & Salaries be referred to Tuesday the 19th Day of July 9 o'Clock A. M.

That Article in the Warrant Viz^{t}. "To determine upon proper Methods for preserving of Beacon Hill," was read & Considered, whereupon a Motion made, that the Selectmen be directed & impowered, as Agents of the Town to prosecute M^{r}. Hudson for Encroachments on Beacon Hill; this Motion subsided [**524.**] And M^{r}. Thomas Hudson being present, he proposed in Order that a final Determination may be made relative to the Dispute between him & the Town about Beacon Hill, he was willing that the same should be settled by five indifferent persons to be mutually chosen by the Town & himself, they or a major part of them to award what Damages the Town has sustained by his digging away, or undermining said Hill; & also what Sum the Town shall give him for such Part of his Lands, as shall be judged necessary for the Preservation of said Hill — The Question being put — Whether the Town will agree to the above Proposals — Passed in the Affirmative

The Town then proposed Capt. William Heath of Roxbury & Deacon John Frattingham of Charlestown, as Referees on the Part of the Town, which M^{r}. Hudson approved of — M^{r}. Samuel How of Dorchester & M^{r}. Nathanael Brown of Charlestown, were proposed by M^{r}. Hudson, as Referees, and approved of by the Town — It was agreed by the parties that M^{r}. Lemuel Robinson of Dorchester be the fifth Man

Moved & Voted that M^{r}. David Jeffries Town Treasurer, be & hereby is directed & impowered in behalf of the Town, to execute such Bonds of Submission, as shall be thought necessary for a Compliance with the Award of the Referees ——

Voted, That the Time limited for finishing & bringing in the forementioned Award by the Referees, be the 5th of September next ——

Voted, That Col. Thomas Marshall
John Scollay Esq.
M^{r}. Oliver Wendell

be & hereby are appointed & impowered as a Committee, to appear before the Referees & make Representation in behalf of the Town ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to our worthy Friends, the Inhabitants of the Town of Windham in the Colony of Connecticutt, for the kind [**525.**] And generous Assistance they have granted this Town under its present Distress & Calamity, involuntarily — sending 258 Sheep, as a Present for the Relief of the Poor, industrious Inhabitants of this Place, who by a late oppressive & cruel Act of Parliament for blocking up the Harbor of Boston, are prevented getting Subsistence for themselves & Families ——

Voted, That the Town Clerk be directed to transmit an attested Copy of the above Vote of Thanks to the Town of Windham ——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday the 19th. of July instant, 9 O'Clock Forenoon ——

May Meeting Adjournment

Thursday July 19th. 9 O'Clock A.M. Met according to Adjournment ——

Voted, That the Sum of Eight Thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls & Estates within this Town, for Relief of the poor & defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year ——

Voted, That the Sum of One Hundred & Twenty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the Sum of One hundred & Twenty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt for his Salary, as Master of the North Grammar School, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Carter, for his Salary, as Master of the Writing School in Queen-Street, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

[526.] Voted, That the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook for his Salary, as Master of the Writing School in the Common the Year ensuing the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Tileston, for his Salary, as Master of the North Writing School, the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Lovel, for his Salary, as Usher of the South Grammar School, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, that the further Sum of Forty pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Lovel, as Encouragement for him to remain & exert himself in the service of the Town the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, & to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the Sum of Fifty Pounds, be allowed & paid unto Mr. Abiah Holbrook, for his Salary, as Usher of the Writing School in Queen-Street, the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. William Doll for his Salary, as Usher of the writing School, at the North Part of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

[527.] Voted, That the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook, Master of the Writing School in the Common, for providing an Assistant the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter ——

Voted, That the further Sum of Sixteen pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook, Master of the Writing School in the Common for procuring further Help, untill an Usher can be provided for him

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds (besides the Thirty Pounds already granted him) be allowed & paid out of the Town Treasury, unto Mr. David Jeffries as Treasurer of the Town, the Year past, & for all his Expences in that Office. ——

Upon a Motion made by Mr. Samuel Holbrook he was allowed to withdraw his Petition.

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to the last Wednesday in August next, being the 31t. — 10 o'Clock forenoon ——

July 19th. 11 O'Clock. Town met agreeable to the Adjournment of the Boston Port Bill Meeting ——

The Comittee on Ways & Means Reported verbally, that they had been considering of the best Methods to Employ the Poor; & informed the Town, "That the building a Wharff from the South End, leading to Dorchester Neck, & a House or Two on the Town's Lands, at that Part of the Town was what they thought might be of Service: That they had other Proposals to make in some future Time; but that for the present, the Comittee desired the Sense of the Town, with Respect to the Expediency of employing a Number of Inhabitants now out of Employ, in Carrying on a Wharff" ——

It having been moved, that the Committee on Ways & Means for Employing the Poor, have Liberty to build any Wharff or Dam upon the Town's Land at the South End — "It was

[528.] Voted, That the Comittee appointed to distribute the several Donations that may be made for the Relief & Employments of such Persons, as are Sufferers by means of the Port-Bill, have leave to build a Wharff upon the Town's Lands & Flatts (adjoining to Curtis & May's Land) not exceeding 200 feet at present, from High Water Mark; or if Mr. Cobb will give his Flatts, with a sufficient Passage Way of 28 feet from the Street, without a Consideration, that the Committee have Leave to carry it from the said Cobb's, provided they shall think it more advantageous.

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P.M. Met according to Adjournment

It having been represented by Two of the Gentlemen Overseers, that they could not discharge their Duty, as a Committee on Ways

& Means, by Reason of their other Business, & the Sickness of some of their Body — It was moved, & the Question accordingly put — That the Overseers be discharged from the Duty assigned them, as a Comittee on Ways & Means," which passed in the Affirmative ——

A Motion made, that an Addition may now be made to the Comittee on Ways & Means — passed in the Affirmative. ——

Voted, that fourteen Gentlemen be the Addition and that they be chose by Ballot. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Choice of Gentlemen for the Comittee on Ways & Means, be referred to 7 o'Clock in the Evening, & that a Comittee of 24 Gentlemen, Six of whom to be from the North, twelve from the middle, & Six from the South, part of the Town, be appointed to consider of a proper List to be proposed to the Town for this Addition to the Comittee on Ways & Means ——

Voted that Captain Edward Procter
Capt. Fortesque Vernon
[529.] Mr. Alexander Hill
Mr. Paul Reviere
Capt. William Mackay
M. John White
Mr. William Whitwel
M. Edward Payne
Dr. John Greanleaf
Mr. John Brown
Mr. Isaac Peirce
Dr. Joseph Warren
Benja. Austin Esq.
Mr. Daniel Waldo
John Scollay Esq.
Mr. Oliver Wendell
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Mr. Peter Boyer
Major Thos. Daws
Thos. Crafts junr.
William Lowder
Mr. John Preston
Mr. Samuel May
Joshua Henshaw junr.

be a Comittee for the foregoing Purpose. ——

Moved & seconded that the Vote passed in the Morning, relative to a Wharff being built, he reconsidered and the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative ——

It was moved & Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to call a Meeting on Tuesday the 22d. instant, 10 °.Clock A.M. to consider of such Propossals as may be made by the Comittee on Ways & Means, or on any other Proposals relative to the present Exigency of our Affairs.

The Comittee to prepare a List for an Addition to the Comittee on Ways & means having Reported — Voted, that

Capt. Fortesque Vernon
Mr. Edward Procter
Mr. John White
Mr. Gibbins Sharp
Capt. William Mackay
[530.] Mr. Thomas Greenleaf
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Benja. Austin Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. John Brown
Mr. James Richardson
Mr. Thos. Crafts junr.
Mr. Henry Hill
Joshua Henshaw junr.

Be the Comittee on Ways & Means in Addition to the Eleven Gentlemen before chosen. ——

Voted, That Mr. David Jeffries be added to this Comittee on Ways & Means, and that he be the Treasurer of said Committee. — Also

Voted, that Five Gentlemen of this Comittee be a *quorum*.

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that

Mr. Samuel Adams
Josiah Quincy Esq.
John Adams Esq.
Dr. Benja. Church
Dr. Joseph Warren
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Dr. Thomas Young
Revd. Charles Chauncy D. D.
Revd. Samuel Mather D. D.
The Honble. Thos. Cushing Esq.
Dr. Charles Jarvis

Be a Comittee to consider & Report a Declaration to be made by this Town to Great Britain & all the World.——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday the 26 of July instant, 9 O'Clock A.M. ——

Tuesday July 26th. 9 o'Clock forenoon met according to Adjournment of Port Bill Meeting ——

Whereas a Vote was passed this Meeting, Vizt on the 12. day of June 1774 whereby the following Gentlemen, Vizt.

[531.] Mr. Samuel Adams
John Rowe Esq.
Thomas Boylston Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
John Adams Esq.
Josiah Quincy Esq.
Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
Mr. William Mollineux
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton

were appointed to take the several Proposals that have been made, relative to our Conduct in the present Exigency into Consideration & report ——

And at an Adjournment of the former Meeting, Vizt., on the 17 day of June 1774, the following Vote was passed Vizt., That all Grants & Donations to this Town, & the poor thereof at this distressed Season, be paid & delivered into the Hands of the Overseers of the poor in this Town, & by them appropriated & distributed in Concert with the Committee lately appointed by this Town for the Consideration of Ways & Means of Employing the poor. ——

And at a further Adjournment of the same Meeting vizt. on the 19th. day of July instant, the Overseers of the poor, for Reasons offered by them, did desire to be discharged from farther services, touching the Receiving & Distributing Donations, as above mentioned, & the Town did then Vote that

Capt. Fortesque Vernon
Capt. Edward Procter
Mr. John White
Mr. Gibbins Sharp
Capt. Willm. Mackay
Mr. Thos. Greenough
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Benjamin Austin Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. John Brown
Mr. James Richardson
Mr. Thomas Crafts junr.
[532.] Mr. Henry Hill
Mr. Joshua Henshaw junr. &
Mr. David Jeffries

be added to the first named Committee — therefore — Voted, that the Gentlemen, whose Names are aftermention'd Vizt.

Mr. Samuel Adams
John Rowe Esq.
Mr. Thos Boylston Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
John Adams Esq.
Josiah Quincy Esq.
Thos. Cushing Esq.
Mr. Henderson Inches
Mr. Willm. Mollineux
Mr. Nathl. Appleton
Capt. Fortesque Vernon
Capt. Edward Proctor
Mr. John White
Mr. Gibbins Sharp
Capt. Willm. Mackay
Mr. Thos. Greenough
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Benjamin Austin Esq.

Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. John Brown
Mr. James Richardson
Mr. Thos. Crafts junr.
Mr Henry Hill
Mr. Joshua Henshaw junr.
Mr. David Jeffries

Be & hereby are appointed the Comittee to receive all Donations that have been, or may be made for the Employment or Relief of such Inhabitants of this Town, as may be Sufferers for Want of Employment in their several Occupations, by means of the Act of the British Parliment for shutting up the Harbour of Boston, & to appropriate, improve or distribute the same for the Purpose aforesaid, according to their best Discretion; the said Comittee to be accountable to the Town. ——

[**533.**] Voted, That all Matters and Things which remain unfinished be referred over to the next Meeting. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified & legally warned, in public Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on Tuesday the 26 day of July, 10 o'Clock forenoon A. D. 1774.

Warrant for Calling the Meeting read ——

Mr. Samuel Adams Moderator.

That Article of the Warrant, Vizt., "To determine on the Expediency of appointing a Comittee of Seven by Ballot for the Purpose of Consulting proper Measures to be adopted for the common Safety, during these Exigencies of our public Affairs, which may reasonably be expected, when the Acts of the British Parliament, altering the Course of Justice, and annihilating our free Constitution, shall be enforced in the Province; the Committee to make Report" — was read, & after some Debate, the Question was put — "Whether it be the Mind of the Town, that a Comittee of Seven Men be now appointed by Ballot for the Purpose of Considering of proper Measures to be adopted for the Common Safety, during those Exigencies of our Public Affairs, which may reasonably be expected, when the Acts of the British Parliament, altering the Course of Justice & annihilating our free Constitution, shall be enforced in the Province; the Comittee to make Report" — Passed in the Affermative ——

The Inhabitants were then directed to withdraw & bring in their Votes for said Comittee, & upon sorting them it appeared that

[**534.**] The Honble. James Bowdoin Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
John Adams Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Dr. Joseph Warren
Josiah Quincy Esq.

were chose a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider of what Meas-

ures are right & proper for the Town to adopt at this Time, relative to the same Act of the British Parliament — were read & considered, whereupon Voted, that

Josiah Quincy Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams - - - - - - excused
Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
William Phillips Esq.

Be a Committee forthwith to draw up & report for the Consideration of this Town, a Letter to be sent to the other Towns, relative to the Two Bills for altering the Constitution of this Province ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To take the Sense of the Town, relative to the Building One or more Houses, building one or more Vessels, repairing or paving the public Streets, erecting, or enlarging Wharves on the Town's Land, or any other public Work (to be carried on by means arising from Voluntary Donations) for the Employment of the poor of the Town of Boston, at this Time of general Calamity" — was read & considered; whereupon the Question was put — Whether the Town do approve of the Methods expressed in the Warrant for the Employment of those who may be suffering by the Port Bill, & do give Leave to the Committee appointed to consider of Ways & Means for that Purpose: to employ Persons in erecting or enlarging Wharves, building Vessels and Houses on the Town's Lands, or doing any other Work or Business, which they shall judge prudent or necessary; [**535.**] The same to be carried on by Monies arising from voluntary Donations" — Passed in the Affirmative unanimously ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider whether the Town will sell any, & what Part of the real Estate belonging to the Town, lying within the Limits thereof" — was read, & after some Debate, it was moved, & Voted, that this Article of the Warrant be passed over, & referred to some future Time for Consideration ——

The Committee to prepare a Letter to be sent to the other Towns, relative to the Two Bills for altering the Constitution of this Province, Reported a Draught, which was accepted Paragraph by Paragraph, and is as follows, Vizt.,

Friends & Brethren,

Our public Calamities have, for a Series of Years, been encreasing, both in Number & Weight. We have endeavoured under all our public Misfortunes, to conduct as good Citizens in a COMMON CAUSE. Being stationed by Providence in the Front Rank of the Conflict, it hath been our Aim to behave with Vigilance, Activity & Firmness — To warn our Brethren of approaching Danger, to encounter with becoming Spirit the Trials of our Patience, hath been our Aim & our Duty. Our Friends & generous Countrymen have given us Reason to think we have not altogether failed in our honest Endeavours in the Way of this Duty.

Two Acts of Parliament, altering the Course of Justice & annihilating our free Constitution of Government, are every day expected.

When we consider the Conduct of our late worthy House of Rep-

resentatives, relative to our Superior Court Judges, & their Impeachment of the Honble Peter Oliver Esq. for his accepting a Salary from the Crown, in his Office of Chief Justice, & when we consider the uniform Spirit and Conduct of the several Grand Jurors tho' the Province, [**536.**] Touching the same Grievances since that Impeachment; we cannot but suppose the aforementioned Acts will bring on a most important & decisive Trial ——

You, Gentlemen, our Friends, Countrymen & Benefactors, may possibly look towards us at this great Crisis. We trust that we shall not be left of Heaven to do any thing derogatory to our Common Liberties, unworthy the Fame of our Ancestors, or inconsistent with our former Professions & Conduct ——

Though surrounded with a large Body of armed Men (who having the Sword have also our Blood in their Hands) we are yet undaunted; we trust in the God of our Fathers, & we feel the animating Support of a good Cause; but which suffering the double Weight of Oppression & exasperated by a military Camp in the very Bowels of our Town, our Minds are not more in a Temper to DELIBERATE, than our Bodies in a situation to *move*, as the Perils & Exigencies of the Times may probably demand.

To you, Gentlemen, our Brethren & dear Companions *in the Cause of God & our Country* we apply, from you we have *received that Countenance & Aid*, which has strengthened our Hands, & *that Bounty, which has occasioned* Smiles on the Face of Distress. To you, therefore, we look for that *Wisdom, Advice & Example* which, giving Strength to our Understandings & Vigor to our Actions, shall with the Blessing of *God* save us from Destruction.

Looking up to Heaven, and, under Divine Direction, to our Brethren in the Country & on the Continent, for Aid & Support, & with earnest Prayers for a happy Issue out of our Great Troubles, we are,

Your Friends & Brethren,

The Inhabitants of Boston, Upon a Motion made, Voted, that a printed Copy of the following Letter to our Brethren in the several Towns & Districts in the Province be forthwith signed by the Town Clerk, & transmitted by the Comittee of Correspondence, in the Name & Behalf of the Town. ——

Adjourned to Tuesday the 9th of August, 10 o'Clock Forenoon. ——

[**537.**] August 9th 1774 — 10 o'Clock forenoon — Met According to Adjournment.

Warrant for calling the Meeting — read ——

The Comittee on Ways & Means for employing the Poor; & receiving & aplying the Donations that have & may be made them at this distressing Season, Reported verbally, "That it was their Opinion, that the poor of our Sister Town of Charlestown, were suffering with us, under the Operation of the Boston Port Bill, ought to share with our poor in those Donations" — upon which it was moved, & the Question accordingly put, "Whether our Sister Town of Charlestown is equitably intitled to a certain part of the Donations that are & may be received for the Employ-

ment & Relief of such Persons as are Sufferers by the Operation of the Boston Port-Bill, which passed in the Affermative, unanimously — also moved that whereas the Town of Charlestown have had an Encouragement from the Comittee on Ways & Means, that they were to receive seven p Cent out of the Donations mentioned above, said Comittee may now accordingly be directed to apply for their Relief out of said Donations, in the Proportion of seven p Cent — and the Question being put, passed in the Affirmative ——

The Comitte on Ways & Means, reported further, That they had thought it expedient to erect a House at the South Part of the Town, on the Town's Land, for the Employment of Tradesmen, & now out of Work, provided the Town will furnish the Materials wanted for such a Building, upon Condition, that the Comitte on Ways & Means defray the whole Amount of the Labour, out of the Donations they have received." Upon which it was moved, that the Report be accepted, & that the Town give their Consent, that the Comittee should erect such a Building on the Land as was proposed, & that the Town Treasurer be directed to borrow upon Interest the Money necessary to purchase said Materials — & the Question being put — Passed in the Negative

It was moved & seconded, that a Comittee be now appointed to make Appraisment of the Land at the South End, upon which a House had been proposed to be erected; and [**538.**] That the Comittee on Ways & Means might have said Land at the appraised Value for the Purpose aforesaid — and the Question being put — Passed in the Negative ——

It having been suggested, as probable, that some Towns in the Country were about applying for a Meeting of Deputies from the several Towns in the County, — It was moved that some Measures might be taken for appointing Deputies, in Case a County Meeting should be called; whereupon Voted, That the Comittee of Correspondence for this Town be, & hereby are appointed & directed to choose a Comittee to attend the County Congress, — provided Application should be made for that Purpose

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Selectmen be added to the Comittee now chosen, to appoint suitable Persons for the County Congress, in Case Application should be made for that Purpose — Also

Voted, that this Comittee consist of five Persons.

Adjourned to the last Tuesday in October next, 10 O'Clock A.M.

At an Ajournment of the May Meeting Tuesday August 30th. 1774. 10 O'Clock Before Noon.

A Motion was made & seconded that a Moderator for this Meeting be chose by a Hand Vote in the Room of Mr. Saml. Adams now attending the Congress. ——

John Scollay Esq. was unanimously chosen a Moderator in the Room of Mr. Adams now absent. ——

The Comittee chosen by the Town were not ready to make their Report, at this Meeting, though called upon for this Purpose.

A Motion was made & seconded — " That the Sense of the Town

be taken, Whether the Comittee on Ways & Means for employing the Poor, be allowed & impowered [**539.**] If they shall judge it proper, to lay out a Brick Yard on Boston Neck for the making of Bricks — and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affirmative

A Motion was made that a Vote passed the 4th. of July last, for not reconsidering a Vote passed the 13th. of May, appointing a Comittee to consider the Petition of a Number of the Inhabitants, "That a public Well may be dug, & a Pump fixt upon Dock Square, for the farther Preservation of the Town from Fire, & the Accomodation of the Inhabitants in that Neighbourhood with Water," which Comittee was ordered to make Report at next March Meeting; be now reconsidered — & the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative — also

Voted, that the Comittee appointed to consider of Ways & Means for employing the Poor of this Town, now out of Business by the Operation of the Port Bill, so called, be allowed & impowered to make such an Agreement with the Petitioners for a Well to be dug on Dock Square, as said Comittee may apprehend to be for the Advantage of the Town.

Upon a Motion made, that there be a short Adjournment of this Meeting, in Order to receive the Report of a Committee, now subsisting, to judge of the Expediency of filling up the Dock, &c.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday the 13th of Septr. next 10 o'Clock before noon — and the Meeting was accordingly adjourned ——

At an Adjournment of the May Meeting September 13th. 1774, 10 o'Clock forenoon ——

John Scollay Esq. chosen Moderator Pro Tempore of this Meeting, being now out of Town, it was moved, and

[**540.**] Voted, That the Town proceed to the Choice of a Moderator Pro Tempore. ——

Moved & Voted, that the Choice of a Moderatr. pro. temp. be by a hand Vote.

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. was chose a Moderator during the Absence of the other Moderator ——

The Chairman of the Comittee appointed to consider the Expediency of filling up the Town Dock, Reported verbally, that they were not yet able to make a full Report, & as John Ruddock Esq. is now dead, they pray the Town that another Gentleman may be appointed in his Room. ——

The Question being put, vizt. "Whether the Town will make any Addition to the Comittee on filling up the Dock — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Mr. Joshua Blanchard was added to the Comittee relative to Dock Square in the Room of John Ruddock Esq. deceased. ——

Voted, That the foregoing Comittee be desired to report to the Town; as may be convenient. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to the last Tuesday in September next 9 O'Clock A.M. being 21th. Day ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duely qualified, & legally warned, in public Town

Meeting assembled at Fanueil Hall on Wednesday the 25th. Day of September Anno Domini 1774 ——

Prayer was made by the Reverend Dr. Mather ——

The Precept & Warrant for calling the Meeting read ——

Sundry Laws read ——

[541.] John Scollay Esq. Chairman of the Selectmen proposed in their Names to the Inhabitants assembled, to proceed to the Choice of One or more Persons to represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembly to be holden on the 5th. day of October next; & in order there to consider & ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected, accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the Choice of four Representatives; & then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded & that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock ——

The Votes being brought in for four Representatives, the Number of the same were found to be three Hundred & Sixty Two, & upon sorting them it appeared, that the four following Gentlemen were chosen Vizt.

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - - - -	362
Mr. Samuel Adams - - - - - - - - - - - - -	361
The Honble. John Hancock Esq. - - - - - - - -	362
William Philips Esq. - - - - - - - - - - - -	362

The Choice of Representatives being over & declared by the Selectmen; the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, & bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant: Accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, & brought in their Votes, & upon sorting them it appeared, that the Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen unanimously

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To consider what Instructions shall be given to the Gentlemen that may be chosen to represent them in the said General Assembly," — was read whereupon it was moved, & the Question accordingly put, Whether it is the sense of the Town, that Instructions be given to the Gentlemen chosen to represent this Metropolis — which passed in the Negative ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

[542.] 3 O'Clock P.M. Met according to Adjournment

The Article in the Warrant vizt. "To choose four Collectors of Taxes in the Room of the late Collectors, who decline serving" — was read — and after some Debate ——

Voted, That the Consideration of the Choice of Collectors of Taxes, in the Room of those who decline serving, shall subside for the present ——

A Motion made that a Number of Resolves respecting a Provincial Congress, handed in to the Town might be now read & considered & the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative ——

Moved & seconded, that the Vote passed in the Morning for not

Instructing the Gentlemen chosen to represent this Town, be now reconsidered, & after considerable Debate on the Motion ——

Voted, that the farther Consideration thereof be referred till Tomorrow afternoon 3 O'Clock ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned till Tomorrow 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

Thursday September the 22d. Town met according to Adjournment ——

The Motion for reconsidering the Vote passed for not Instructing the Gentlemen chosen to represent us, again taken up, & the Question being put — Whether said Vote shall be reconsidered, passed in the Affirmative ——

The Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider what Instructions shall be given to the Gentlemen that may be chosen to represent this Town in General Assembly," again read, & after some Debate the Question was put — Whether Instructions shall be given our Representatives, which passed in the Affirmative unanimously. ——

[**543.**] Voted, That Dr. Joseph Warren
Dr. Benjamin Church
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
Mr. John Pitts ——

Be, & hereby are appointed a Committee to prepare Instructions for our Representatives, the same to be Reported ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, That Three Persons be now appointed & impowered, in Addition to our four Representatives, to our four Representatives, to join with the Members who may be sent from the Neighbouring Towns in the Province, at a Time to be agreed on, in a General Provincial Congress, to act upon such Matters, as may then come before them, in such a manner as shall appear to them most conducive to the true Interest of this Town & Province, & most likely to preserve the Liberties of all America. ——

The Inhabitants were then directed to withdraw, & bring in their Votes for three Persons accordingly; & the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared that the following Gentlemen.

Vizt. Dr. Joseph Warren
Dr. Benjamin Church
Mr. Nathaniel Appleton

were chosen Members of the Provincial Congress for the Purpose aforesaid ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for our Representatives, be directed to set immediataly, & Report as soon as possible. ——

The Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for our Representatives reported the following Draught, which was accepted by the Town — Vizt.

To the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
William Phillips Esq.

Gentlemen,

As we have now chosen you to represent us in the Great & General Court, to be holden at Salem, on Wednesday, the 5th. Day of October next ensuing, we do hereby instruct you, that in all your Doings, as Members of the House of Representatives, you adhere firmly to the Charter of this Province, granted by their Majesties King William & Queen Mary, & that you do no act, - - - - - - which can possibly be construed into an Acknowlegment of the Act of the British Parliament, for altering the Government of Massachusetts' Bay; more especially that you acknowlege the Honble. Board of Counsellors, elected by the General Court at their Sessions in May last, as the only rightful & constitutional Council of this Province. — And, as we have Reason to believe that a Conscientious Discharge of your Duty will produce your Dissolution, as an House of Representatives — We do hereby impower & instruct you to join with the Members, who may be sent from this & the Neighbouring Towns in the Province, & to meet with them on a time to be agreed on, in a General Provincial Congress, to act upon such Matters, as may come before you, in such a manner, as shall appear to you most conducive to the true Interest of this Town & Province, & most likely to preserve the Liberties of all America ——

Voted, That this Meeting be dissolved and it was accordingby dissolved. ——

At an Adjournment of the May Meeting, Tuesday October the 25th. 1774 — 9 O'Clock before Noon. ——

John Scollay Esqr. pro Temp. Moderator of this Meeting, being by Reason of Indisposition prevented giving [**545.**] His Attendance, & Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. the other pro Temp. Moderator, being out of Town, a Motion was made & passed that another Gentleman be chosen by a Hand Vote ——

William Phillips Esq.

was accordingly chosen Moderator of this Meeting, during the Absence of the other Gentlemen ——

A Motion made & carried, that an Overseer of the Poor be now chosen in the Room of William White Esq. deceased ——

The Town brought in their Votes accordingly & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. John White

was unanimously chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Remainder of the Year. ——

The Comittee appointed to consider of the Expediency of filling up the Dock &c. acquainted the Town, that they were desirous of a farther Time for making their Report — Whereupon it was Voted, that a farther Time be accordingly allowed them, & that they be desired to make Report at the Adjournment ——

Mr. James Foster Condy

was chosen a Clerk of the Market for the Remainder of the Year, in the Room of Mr. John Smith, lately removed out of this Town. ——

A Motion made & seconded, that when this meeting shall be

adjourned, it may be to the first Wednesday in December next, 9 O'Clock before Noon. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be accordingly adjourned to Wednesday the seventh Day of December next ensuing, 9 O'Clock A. M.

At an Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting Tuesday October 25th. 1774. 10 O'Clock before Noon. ——

[**546.**] Mr. Samuel Adams, the Moderator of this Meeting being being now at the Continental Congress, it was moved that a Pro. Temp. Moderator be now chosen by a Hand Vote ——

William Phillips Esq.

was accordingly chosen Moderator of this Meeting Pro. Tem.

A Motion made that some Method may be pursued to prevent Bickerings & Disputes with the Troops in this Town during the Winter, & such Insults as have been given the Inhabitants by the Soldiery, at Boston Neck & Chalestown Ferry — and after some Debates the following Votes were Passed — Vizt.

Whereas Affrays may happen, by Reason of the Soldiers being quartered in this Town, and the Inhabitants are desirous to preserve Peace & good Order — therefore Voted, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Governor to consult upon such Ways & Means, as are not likely to procure this desirable Effect, & to report as soon as may be ——

Voted, that William Phillips Esq.
Mr. James Richardson
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. William Whitwel
Mr. Samuel Partridge
John Scollay Esq.
Thomas Marshall Esq.

be a Committee to wait upon the Governor for the Purpose aforesaid ——

On a Motion made, that Ten Persons be added to the Committee to consider of Ways & Means for employing the poor Sufferers by the Operation of the Boston Port Bill, so called.

Voted, that Mr. Daniel Waldo
Mr. William Whitwell
[**547.**] Capt. John Pulling
Mr. Peter Boyer
Mr. Samuel May
Mr. John Avery junr.
Mr. William Boardman
Mr. John Soley
Capt. Nehemiah Soames
Mr. John Preston

be & hereby are added to the Committee on Ways & Means for supplying the Poor

On a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday next, being the 1t. Day of November 10 O'Clock forenoon ——

At an Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting Tuesday November 1t 10 O'Clock before Noon

The Comittee appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, Reported, That they had had a Conference with the Governor agreable to the Vote of the Town, who declared he was ready to do every thing in his Power to promote the Peace and Good Order of the Town

After considerable Debate, it was moved, and the Question accordingly put — Whether the Report shall be accepted & it passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday next 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

At an Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting Thursday November 3d. 1774 — 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

A Motion made & the Question accordingly put, Whether a Comittee shall be appointed to take into Consideration, what are the proper Ways & Means to secure the Peace & good Order of the Town — Which passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that William Phillips Esq. Moderator
John Scollay Esq.
[548.] The Honble John Hancock Esq.
M^r. Timothy Newell
Thomas Marshall Esq.
M^r. Samuel Austin
M^r. Oliver Wendell
M^r. John Pitts
D^r. Joseph Warren
D^r. Benjamin Church
M^r. Thomas Boylston

Be, & hereby are appointed a Committee, to consider & report at the Adjournment, what are the proper Ways and Means to secure the Peace & good Order of the Town ——

Voted, That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next, 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

At an Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting — Thursday November 3d. 1774, 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

The Comittee appointed to take into Consideration what are the proper Ways & Means to secure the Peace & good Order of the Town, Reported as follows, Viz^t. ——

Whereas sundry Regiments of his Majesty's Troops are, contrary to Law, & to the great Annoyance & Detriment of his Majesty's good Subjects of this Province, now stationed in the Town of Boston, in a Time of profound Peace, for the avowed Purpose of carrying into Execution, sundry Acts of the British Parliament, tending to enslave the People, & to subvert the Constitution of this Province, which it is our Duty to protest against upon all Occasions, yet nevertheless, we, the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, in Town Meeting legally assembled, — taking into serious Consideration, the distressed Circumstances of this Metropolis, & being anxious still to use our best Endeavours to preserve that Decency & Order, for which the Town has ever been remarkable; relying on the Justice of our Cause [549.] And confiding in the united Endeavors of the Colonies, the Wisdom of the Continental Congress, the Justice & Clemency of our Sovereign, & the

Smiles of Divine Providence, that our Grievances, will shortly be redressed, & our unalienable & precious Rights, Liberties and Privileges, be restored & secured to us, upon a Just & permanent Basis — Therefore we recommend, That as his Excellency the Governor has assured the Town, that he will do all in his Power to secure the Peace & good Order of the Town;

That the Town on their Part will exert their best Endeavors to effect the same desirable Purpose, & to this End would augment the Town Watch to the Number of Twelve Men in each Watch; and it is recommended to the Selectmen, that they increase the Watch to the Number of Twelve Men in each Watch House, for the security & Safety of the Inhabitants, & that they be directed to Patrole the Streets of the Town for the whole Night the Winter Season ——

And, it is earnestly desired that his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, & other Peace-Officers, would exert their Authority for the Observance of the Laws, & Preservation of Peace & Order; & that when they hear of any Disturbance, they would not wait for a Complaint but call on the Inhabitants, who will at all Times be ready in assisting to disperse such Persons, or of bringing Offenders, of what Sort or Rank whatsoever to Justice. ——

As in our present Situation, it is incumbent on us particularly to attend to the Peace & good Order of the Town, it is therefore earnestly recommended to the Inhabitants to do all in their Power to prevent or suppress any Quarrels or Disturbances — And it is seriously recommended to all Masters of Families, that they restrain their Children & Servants from going abroad after Nine O'Clock in the Evening, unless on necessary Business — And it is farther recommended to the Selectmen of the Town to enjoin upon all Retailers & Taverns of the Town, that they strictly conform to the Laws of the Province relating to disorderly Persons —

William Phillips, p Order

[550.] The foregoing Report having been read, and considered Paragraph by Paragraph, the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that a Committee be now appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Govenor, & to acquaint him, that the Town, on their part, being disposed to do their utmost to preserve Peace and good Order, have come into such Res olutions, as they apprehend conducive to so happy a Purpose. ——

Voted, that John Scollay Esq.
The Honble John Hancock Esq.
M^r^. Timothy Newell
Thomas Marshall Esq.
M^r^. Samuel Austin
M^r^. Oliver Wendell
M^r^. James Pitts
D^r^. Joseph Warren
D^r^. Benj^a^. Church
M^r^. Thomas Boylston
William Phillips Esq. Moderator

be a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid — also

Voted, that the foregoing Committee be & they hereby are instructed to confer with the Governor upon such Matters as have been mentioned by Dr Church in this Meeting ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to give Orders for the Lighting of the Lamps, when they shall think it proper. ——

Voted, that a Committee be now chosen to procure Subscriptions for the Purpose of Lighting of the Town Lamps.

[551.] On a Motion made, Voted, that the above Vote respecting Subscriptions for lighting the Lamps be reconsidered

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday December 7th 10 o'Clock A. M. ——

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, legally warned, at Faneuil Hall, December 7th 1774, by Adjournment of the May Meeting from October 25th ——

The former Moderator being absent a Motion was made & carried for choosing a Moderator Pro Tempore by a hand Vote ——

Jonathan Williams Esq.

was chosen Moderator, Pro Tempore of this Meeting.

Upon a Motion made, the Vote which passed at a former Meeting, relative to Beacon Hill was read & considered

The Town Treasurer attended by Order of the Town, & being asked, Whether the Bonds of Submission relative to the Dispute with Mr. Hudson, about a Supposed Encroachments on Beacon Hill, had been executed he informed the Town that those Bonds had not been executed ——

A Motion made by James Otis Esq. relative to Faneuil Hall, after some Debate, upon the Gentleman's own Motion he had Leave to withdraw it ——

A Motion was made & seconded, that upon Account of the present Difficulties of Collecting the Town Taxes, that the School master & Town Clerk, shall be allowed Interest on the Sums they shall have Draughts for, until they shall have received Payment; but the Town Treasurer being present, & acquainting the Town, that by a former Vote the Schoolmasters were allowed Interest, the Motion was withdrawn. ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted that the Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is directed & impowered to give his Negative Vote on Interest to the Town Clerk, for such Sums as he shall have a Warrant upon the Treasury for, for Services done ——

[552.] The Town were informed, that the Collectors of Taxes for the present Year had declined quaifying themselves agreeable to a Vote of the Town, & refused taking the Books from the Assessors upon the usual Terms — After considerable Debate upon this Matter; — It was the Sense of the Town that Nothing farther should be said at this Time. ——

Whereas the Town, at their Meeting on the 4th. of July last, agreed with Mr. Hudson to submit the Disputes respecting Beacon Hill, & Arbitrators were mutually chosen to issue the Matter in Dispute, by the 5th. of September last, & the said Term being elapsed; 'tis now mutually agreed between the Town & Mr. Hudson,

that the same Matters may be taken up by the said Arbitrators, & awarded as soon as may be ——

The Committee relative to Dock Square informed the Town, that they were not yet able to Report at this Meeting ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M. ——

3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment

The Comittee relative to filling up the Dock having Reported in the forenoon, that they were not ready to make Report, had Leave to sit again, & said Comittee are directed to take such Affidavits as they may think necessary.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next, 9 O'Clock forenoon — and the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.

Boston ss. See page 501

At a Meeting of His Majestys Justices of the Peace dwelling in the Town of Boston & the Selectmen of said Town June 17th. 1773. ——

Whereas a considerable number of the Freeholders & Other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston did by their Petition to the Justices & Selectmen in said Town set forth that the greatest part of the Lands from Ann Street to Middle Street whereby the Fire which happened in Boston [**553.**] on the 3 Day of February 1767 became desolate & vacant; thay Paddys Alley so called which runs through those Lands tho', very narrow was from its situation extremely beneficial & useful to the said Inhabitants & that scarce any Street in Town was more improved than said Alley and that it was absolutely necessary to have a way there: The Petitioners therefore prayed that a commodious Street there should be laid and not only for the convenience of the Town but also that such of the Inhabitants as were burnt out might be encouraged to Rebuild, and upon consideration of the Premisses said Justices and Selectmen on the sixteenth Day of April Anno Dom. 1767 laid out a new Street accordingly, but the same as then laid out being found to be prejudicial to numbers of Persons & Inconvenient for the publick, before a Jury was Appointed to Assess damages &c; upon a Representation thereof made to the General Court at their Session in January last said Court by an Act then passed did set Aside & disannul what was done by the Justices and Selectmen relative to the laying out of said new Street on the sixteenth Day of April 1767 and by said Act & another Act passed by said General Court at their Session in May last did give power to the Justices in said Town together with the Selectmen or a major part of each Assenting thereto to state & lay out a new Street of twenty feet in wedth from Ann Street to Middle Street beginging at Ann Street & so running up Paddys Alley to the Brick Wall on the Easterly end of Mr. Gedneys Land in said Alley and no further, — and said Justices & Selectmen are also impowered by the last of said Acts to lay out said Street of a greater wedth than twenty Feet in or near the middle part thereof if they should Judge, it more convenient — Whereupon We Edmund Quincy, John Hill, Belcher Noyes, Arnold Wells, Joseph Gardner, John Avery, John Tudor, & Samuel Pemberton, being a major part of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid dwelling in the Town of Boston, And we

John Scollay, John Hancock, Timothy Newell, & Thomas Marshall, being a Major part of the Selectmen of said Town having carefully viewed the said Alley and the Land made desolate & vacant by said Fire & duly considered of the Premisses have for the conveniency and accomodation of that place and of the Inhabitants aforesaid pursuant to the Power given us in & by the Acts aforesaid Stated & laid out and Established a New Street through the vacant and desolate Lands aforesaid including the aforesaid Alley in Manner following vizt. beginning at the North Easterly Corner of the Brick Tenement, or [**554.**] (Ell, so called) belonging to the Heirs of M^{r}. Meriam Tyler deceased fronting on said Ann Street and from thence running on said Street to the North East Corner of the Brick House belonging to the Heirs or Assigns of Capt. William Fletcher deceased measuring on said Ann Street including Paddys Alley aforesaid twenty feet, and from said Ann Street it runs towards the Westward One hundred & thirty three feet of the wedth of twenty feet, and from thence it widens until it comes abreast of or opposite to Capt. Robert Balls Gate where said New Street is twenty three feet Six Inches in wedth, and from thence on said Opposet side it runs narrowing till it comes to said Gedneys Brick Wall where it ends on this side & is thereof the wedth of twenty feet, and then said Street is but fourteen feet wide and from thence continues on a line with said Gedneys Dwelling houses & Lands, somewhat bevelling till it comes to Middle Street where it is but twelve feet wide, on the Opposite or Southwesterly side, said new Street runs from Ann Street beginning at the North East Corner of said Fletchers Brick House to Middle Street and the Lands bounding thereon belonging to the Heirs or Assigns of said William Fletcher deceased Jonathan Cushing deceased, Capt. Robert Ball the Heirs or Assigns of Robert Henry deceased, Joseph Sherburne Esqr. Thomas Emmons, Asa Stodder, John Briant, and Joseph Jackson, when it comes into Middle Street, And we have laid and set off, the aforesaid Brick Ell, Tenement of said Tyler, and all the Lands of every Person whomsoever included & fallen within the Lines aforesaid into the same new Street to remaine and continue a part & parcel of said New Street forever — In Witness whereof we hereunto set our hands the Seventeeth Day of June Anno Domini 1773 John Scollay, John Hancock, Tim^{o}. Newell Thos. Marshall Selectmen of Boston — Edm. Quincy, John Hill, Belcher Noyes, Arnold Welles, John Avery, Joseph Gardner, John Tudor, Saml. Pemberton, Justices of the Peace — Exam^{d}. William Cooper, Town Clerk.

Suffolk ss.

To Nathaniel Ruggles Esqr. James Mears, Aaron Davis jun^{r}. Caleb Howard, Samuel Sumner, Nathaniel Felton, John Greaton jun^{r}. all of Roxbury, Eleazer Clap & Samuel Topliff of Dorchester, Elisha Gardner, Thomas Aspinwal & Eleazer Baker all of Brookline, and all in the County of Suffolk — Greeting

Whereas in and by an Act made and passed by the Great and [**555.**] General Court or Assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay held at Boston by Adjournment on the third Day of January last. It was Enacted that it shall be in the Power of the

Justices of the Peace in the Town of Boston together with the Selectmen (or the Major Part of Each Assenting thereto) to state and lay out a Street Way or passage through the Lands in said Act mentioned twenty feet wide from Middle Street so called to Ann Street so called, in said Town as should be most for the Convenience and Accomodation of the place by extending enlarging, streightening, or otherwise Altering the Street or Lane called Paddys Alley in said Act Mentioned: And that where Any Particular Person or Persons shall have their Lands or Tenements or Any part thereof taken away or lecsen'd thereby, A Jury of twelve Men shall be Appointed by two Justices of the Peace and sworn to a certain the Value thereof to be paid by the Person to whose Land the same shall be Added or by the Neighbourhood or Town in proportion to the benefits or Conveniency any shall have thereby, according to their best Skill And understanding; Provided Nevertheless that the two Justices and Jury Aforesaid shall not be Inhabitants of the Town of Boston. And whereas in and by one other Act or the Great & General Court aforesaid made and Passed in their Sessions in May last; in Addition to and explanatory of the afore in Part Recited Act, It was Enacted that said Justices & Selectmen of the Town of Boston, or a Major Part of Each be and they were thereby impowered and directed, as soon as may be to lay out said Street twenty feet in wedth, begining at Ann Street, and so running up Paddys Alley to the Brick wall on the Eastermost End of the Land of George Broughton Godney in said Alley and no further; And it was further Enacted, that if said Justices and Selectmen, or a Major Part of each, should Judge it more Convenient to have said Street of a greater wedth than twenty feet in or near the middle Part of it, where the Lands are vacant, they were directed and impowered to lay out the same Accordingly, the Act aforesaid notwithstanding, And that in all other Things the Justices Selectmen, Jury and all Persons interested or concerned were to Proceed according to the directions of the aforementioned Act. All which in and by the afore in part recited Acts (reference thereto being had) will more fully Appear. And where as a Major Part of the Justices, and a Major part of the Selectmen, in the Town of Boston aforesaid in pursuance of the afore last mentioned Act, have Staked and laid out a Street including said Alley in manner following Viz^{t}. beginning at the North East Corner of the Brick Tenement (or Ell so called) belonging to the heirs or Assigns of M^{r}. Meriam Tyler decēd, Fronting on said Ann Street and from thence running, and [**556.**] said Street to the Northeast Corner of the Brick house belonging to the Heirs & Assigns of Capt. William Fletcher decēd, measuring on said Ann Street including Paddys Alley aforesaid, twenty feet and from said Ann Street it runs towards the Westward One hundred & thirty three feet of the the wedth of twenty feet, and from thence it widens untill it comes abreast of or Opposite to Capt. Robert Balls gate where said New Street is twenty three feet six inches in wedth, and from thence on said Opposite side it runs narrowing till it comes to said Gedneys brick wall where it ends on this side and is there of the wedth of twenty feet, and then said Street is but

fourteen feet wide, and from thence continues on a Line with s'd Gedneys Dwelling houses and Lands somewhat bevelling till it comes to Middle Street where it is but twelve feet wide; on the opposite or Southwesterly side, said New Street runs from Ann Street begining at the Northeast Corner of said Fletchers Brick Dwelling house to Middle Street and the Lands bounding thereon belonging to the Heirs or Assigns of said William Fletcher decēd Jonathan Cushing decēd, Capt. Robert Ball, the heirs or Assigns of Robert Henry deceased, and William Jepson decēd, Thomas Emmons, Asa Stoddard, John Briant, & Joseph Jackson when it enters into Middle Street, said Justices and Selectmen also laid and Sett off the aforesaid Brick Ell or Tenement of said Tylers, and all the Lands of every Person whomsoever included within the Lines aforesaid into said New Street; to remain and continue A Part and Parcel of the same forever as by the Return made by the Justices dwelling in said Town of Boston, and the Selectmen of said Town preference thereto being had will fully Appear.

Pursuant therefore to the Directions of the Acts aforesaid, and by virtue of the Power therein given to us, We the Subscribers, vizt. Nathaniel Hatch of Dorchester and Joseph Williams of Roxbury - - - - two of his Majestys Justices of the Peace within and for the County of Suffolk, do hereby Appoint you the said Nathaniel Ruggles Foreman James Mears Aaron Davis Junr. Caleb Havard Samuel Sumner, Nathaniel Felton, John Greaton Junr. Ebenezer Clap, Samuel Toplift, Elisha Gardner, Thomas Aspinwal & Eleazer Baker - - - - - -A Jury and being first sworn you are to go upon and view the Brick Tenement Lands and Premisses that are taken in, and unto the said new Street as stated and laid out by said Justices and Selectmen as aforesaid and to whom they belonged, and you are then to Value and acertain the Loss and Damages that any Person or Persons their Heirs or Assigns do suffer or Sustain by having their Lands or Tenement taken [**557.**] away & added to said New Street, and you are to determin by whom such Loss and Damages and also the Costs and Charges Attending the Business Aforesaid) shall be paid, and if you should find that any Person in the Neighbourhood have taken in and Added to their Lands any Part of said Paddys Alley, or you shall Judge the Town of Boston, or the Estate of any Persons in the Neighbourhood of said new Street or near the same will be benefited thereby. You are to Assess said Town, and Persons at their Estates, such a Proportion of said Loss Damages and Charges, as to you shall seem just according to your best skill and Understanding and as soon as you have compleated the same you are to make return hereof with your doings thereon unto Us or one of Us, or to the Selectmen of the Town of Boston aforesaid, that so the same may be Entered with the Records of said Town, and said New Street known for a Publick Street or Highway forever. Given under our hands & Seals at Dorchester the Nineteenth day of July, in the thirteenth year of His Majestys Reign Annoqe Dom; 1773 Nathl. Hatch Jo^{s}. Williams — Note the Parties interested or concern'd are to be present if they see cause ——

Suffolk s^{s}. Roxbury July 26th. 1773. The aforenamed Nathan-

iel Ruggles, James Mears, Aaran Davis Junr. Caleb Howard, Samuel Sumner, Nathaniel Felton, John Greaton Jr. Ebenezer Clap, Samuel Toplift, Elisha Gardner, Thomas Aspinwal & Eleazer Baker, Personally Appeared & made Solemn Oath that they would do and Perform all the several Matters & things they are required & directed to do, in & by the afore written Warrant According to their best Skill and Understanding Before Jos. Williams Justice Peace

Examd. William Cooper Town Clerk

We the Subscribers a Jury appointed in & by the aforewritten Warrant hereunto annexed; for the Purposes therein mentioned being sworn by Joseph Williams Esqr. One of his Majestys Justices of the peace went several times upon the Brick Tenement Lands & premisses taken away & added to this New Street by Paddeys Alley so Called in Boston stated & Laid out by the Justices of the Peace & Selectmen of said Town as particularly mentioned in said Warrant & having Notifyed the Proprietors of said Lands; & heared them as also the Selectmen [**558.**] of Boston we carefully viewed the same, and find that the Lands & premisses taken from several Persons and Added to said New Street are as follows &c.

Vz. A large Tenement fronting Easterly upon Ann Street measuring thereon fourteen feet two Inches with a Cellar under the same, and from said Ann Street it runs one hundred & fifty feet Nine Inches to the Westward, of the wedth of fourteen feet two Inches through the Lands now or late belonging to the Heirs or Assigns of Mr. Merriam Tyler decēd & from thence said New Street runs thro' the Lands of William Scott Sixty Six feet in length, and fourteen feet Six Inches in depth, & from said Scott it runs thro the Lands of Jacob Emmons fifteen feet in length and twenty three feet Six Inches in depth, and from said Emmons land it runs thro' the Land of William Simpkins two feet in length including one half of a private Way or Passage way that lay in Common between him & Joseph Sherburn Esq. being, as tis said their property & twenty one feet four inches in depth, and from thence it runs thro' said Sherburns land including his half of said Alley Twenty two feet in length & Twenty one feet four Inches in depth, and from thence thro' the Lands belonging to the Estate of James Dodge decēd fourteen feet six inches in Length including half of a Private Alley or passage way that (as tis said) belongs to said Dodges Estate and the heirs of Rachel Hobby decēd, and Six feet in depth and from thence it runs thro' the Lands of said Rachel Hobby or her heirs twelve feet Six inches in length (including half of said Alley) and Six feet in depth, and then said New Street meets with the Brick wall of a house belonging to George Broughton Gedney where it ends of the Wedth of twenty feet, and then said Street is but fourteen feet in Wedth, & so continues on a Line on this Northeasterly side with said Gedneys Dwelling Houses & Lands somewhat bevelling till it comes and enters into Middle Street where it is but Twelve feet wide; on the Opposet or Southwesterly side said New Street runs

from Ann Street to Middle Street & the [559.] Lands bounded thereon belong to the heirs of Mrs. Margaret Fletcher decēd Margaret Newman Capt. Robert Ball the Heirs of Robert Henry decēd Joseph Sherburn Esqr. Thomas Emmons, Asa Stoddard John Briant & Joseph Jackson when it comes to Middle Street, or be the Measure of any of the Lands aforesaid be they more, or be they Less, We having maturely Considered of all the Matters and things we were directed to in and by the Warrant aforesaid, do Report our Determination thereupon as follows - - - - - -

Vizt. That the Heirs Assigns or Proprietors of the Tenement or Ell & Lands belonging to the Estate of Mrs: Meriam Tyler decēd, be allowed & paid Two hundred & Thirty pounds for there Loss & Damages sustained by taking said Ell & Lands from them as laid out & Added to the New Street Aforesaid That William Scott be allowed Twenty Five pounds for his Loss & Damages in taking from him Lands that is laid out in the New Street Aforesaid — That Jacob Emmons be Allowed Five pounds for his Loss and Damages in taking from him Lands that is laid out in the New Street Afforesaid That William Simpkins be Allowed Five pounds for his Loss and Damages in taking from him Lands that is laid out in the New Street afforesaid — That Joseph Sherburne Esqr. be Allowed Seven pounds for his Loss and Damages in taking from him Lands that is Laid out in the New Street Aforesaid ——

That the Heirs of James Dodge be Allowed Three pounds for their Loss & Damages in taking from them Lands that is laid out in the New Street Aforesaid ——

[559.] That the Heirs of Rachel Hobby be Allowed Two pounds for their Loss & Damages in taking from them Lands that is Laid out in the New Street Aforesaid ——

That Sixteen pounds Ten Shillings be allowed the Justices & Jury for their Time Trouble & Expences on the Business Assign'd them — And we further Report that George Broughton Gedney be & hereby is Assessed the Sum of Three pounds Merriams Heirs One pound, Joseph Jackson Three pounds, John Bryant Two pounds, Asa Stoddard Four pounds, Thomas Emmons Five pounds, The Heirs of Robert Henry decēd Three pounds Robert Ball Eighty pounds for Priveledge & Land taken in Belonging to Paddays Alley, Mrs Newman Twenty Five pounds, The Heirs of the Widdow Fletcher decēd Twenty pounds for their Priveledge being better for the New Street ——

And we further say that the Sum of One hundred Seventy Seven pounds Ten Shillings Be paid by the Town of Boston Making in the whole the Sum of Three hundred & Twenty three pounds Ten Shillings & that be in full (when paid) of Loss Damages Cost & Charges &c. Attending the Business Aforesaid. And We further Report & Determine that the Aforesaid Brick Tenement (or Ell) belonging to the heirs or Assigns of said Meriam Tyler shall be pulled down, and the Celler filled up and the Fences included in said New Street be removed, at the Cost & Charge of the Proprietors of said premisses, within Sixty days & that the several Sum & Sums of Money Assessed on the Persons aforenamed be paid & the Work dun in Forty days from the Date here-

of & we hereby Assess them & Their Estates for payment of the same Accordingly — And further we do Allow & Assign unto the Proprietors of said Miriam Tylers Estate All the Brick Windows [**560.**] And Materials of or belonging to said Brick Tenement or Ell, for their Use & Benefit Witness our hands this Third Day of August One Thousand Seven hundred & Seventy three ——

Nath[l] Ruggles, James Mears, Aaron Davis Jun[r] Caleb Hayward Sam[l]. Sumner Nath[l]. Felton, John Greaton Jun[r] Ebenezer Clap Sam Toplift, Elisha Gardener, Tho[s]. Aspinwall Jun[r]. Eleazer Parker.

The aforegoing Assessment Exam.

William Cooper Town Clerk.

[End of Book 5 of Town Records. — W. H. W.]

BOSTON TOWN RECORDS.

[SIXTH BOOK.]

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston p Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting from November the 7th. at Faneuil Hall, December 7th. 1774, 10 O'Clock.

The former Moderator being absent it was Voted that a Pro Temp. Moderator be now chosen by a Hand Vote

Jonathan Williams Esq. was chosen Moderator Pro Tempore.——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that a Committee be now chosen toprepare & bring in a List of proper Persons, to serve as a Comittee, for carrying the Resolutions of the late Continental Congress into Execution. ——

Voted, that Jonathan Williams Esq.
James Otis Esq.
Mr. Paul Reverie
Mr. John Pitts
Mr. Thomas Crafts Junr.
Capt. Abiel Ruddock
Mr. Thomas Chase

be a Committee for the above Purpose ——

Adjourned to half past 3 O'Clock P.M. ——

1/2 past 3 O'Clock met according to Adjournment

A Motion made, & the question put, Whether it is the sense of the Town, that the Comittee of Correspondence now subsists, & that they continue their good services, till the farther Order of the Town — and that either Seven of the Committee of Correspondence be & hereby are impowered to conduct the Business of said Comittee — Which passed in the Affirmative unanimously. ——

[2.] The Committee to prepare a List for a Committee of Inspection, & to carry the Resolutions of the Continental Congress into Execution Reported the following Names, & that Seven of said Gentlemen shall be a Quorum — Which Report was accepted by the Town — The Comittee are as follows, Vizt.

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
William Phillips Esq.
Col: Thomas Marshall
Mr. John Pitts
Mr. Oliver Wendell

Mr. Samuel Austin
Benja. Austin Esq.
Deacon Caleb Davis
Mr. Willm. Whitwel
Samuel Barret Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Capt. John Bradford
Mr. John Brown
Mr. William Powell
Major Richard Boynton
Ezekiel Cheever Esq.
Capt. Edward Proctor
Mr. James Ivers
Mr. Ebenezer Hancock
Mr. William Greenleaf
Mr. Samuel Whitwell
Mr. Hermon Brimmer
Mr. Martin Brimmer
Mr. Peter Boyer
Dr. Benjamin Church
Dr. Joseph Warren
Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
[3.] Capt. Benjamin Waldo
Capt. John Pulling
Mr. Paul Reviere
Mr. John Winthrop
Mr. Samuel Pitts
Capt. Abiel Ruddock
Dr. Charles Jarvis
Mr. Thomas Chase
Major Nathaniel Barbour
Capt. Fortesque Vernon
Capt. Job Prince
Capt. Caleb Hopkins
Mr. Moses Gill
Mr. Thomas Boylston
Capt. John Marston
Major Newman Greenough
Mr. Moses Grant
Mr. Foster Condy
Henry Bromfield Esq.
Mr. Cyrus Baldwin
Mr. Bessinger Foster
Mr. Isaac Pierce
Mr. Enock Brown
Mr. Joseph Ayres
Mr. Henry Bass
Capt. Samuel Partridge
Mr. Joshua Bracket
Jonathan Williams Esq.
Mr. Edward Davis
Capt. Ebenezer Johnson

Mr. Elias Parkman
Mr. John Avery
Dr. Nathaniel Noyes

On a Motion made, Voted, that a Committee be appointed to draught a Vote of Thanks of the Town of Boston expressive [4.] of their Gratitude for the benevolent Assistance which they have received from the other Colonies, during their present Calamities & particularly for generous Recomendation of the respectable Continental Congress for farther Support from their Sister Colonies, during their unhappy Struggles, under the arbitrary & Oppressive Measures of the present British Administration ——

Voted, that Jonathan Williams Esq. Moderator
The Honble. James Otis Esq.
Dr. Benjamin Church
Dr. Joseph Warren
Mr. John Pitts
Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
Mr. William Cooper

be a Comittee to prepare said Report, & report the same at the Adjournment.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next, being 14th. Instant, 10 O'Clock A.M.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston by Adjournment of the May Meeting from December 7th. 1774 — at Faneuil Hall December 7th., 1/2 past 9 O'Clock A.M.

Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair

Warrant for calling this Meeting again, read.

Upon a Motion made for a farther Adjournment of this Meeting, as several Comittees were not ready to make Report

Voted, that all Matters & things which remain unfiuished, be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting

On a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday 26th. Instant, 10 O'Clock forenoon

And the Meeting was adjourned accordingly ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, at Faneuil Hall December 14, 1774, 10 O'Clock A.M. pr. Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting

[5.] Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair ——

It having been suggested in this Meeting, that a Paper signed T. Gage, being an Answer to a Letter, written to General Gage by the Honble. Payson Randolph Esq. President of the late Continental Congress, contains diverse Gross Mistakes, to the Prejudice of this Town,

Therefore Voted, that
Mr. Samuel Adams
Dr. Benjamin Church
Dr. Joseph Warren

be a Comittee to consider the same, & to report at the Adjournment. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 26th. of December Instant 11 O'Clock forenoon ——

And the Meeting was adjourned accordingly

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, at Faneuil Hall, December 26th. 1774 p Adjournment of the May Meeting — 10 O'Clock A.M.

Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair

The several Comittees appointed by the Town, not being ready to make Report at the Adjournment; it was moved & Voted, that this Meeting be farther adjourned to Fryday next 10 O'Clock Forenoon

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned ——

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, at Faneuil Hall December 26. 1774 p Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting.——

Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair.——

A Motion made, that this Meeting, when adjourned, shall be to Fryday next, the 30th. Instant, 11 O'Clock Forenoon ——

Voted, that all Matters unfinished at this Meeting be referred over to the Adjournment.——

[6.] Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned till Fryday next at 11 O'Clock in the Forenoon, then to meet in this Place, to receive & act upon the Reports of Several Comittees; & the Selectmen are hereby requested to issue Notifications and serve the Freeholders & Inhabitants with the same by the Constables of the Town; Notifying them, that on the said Fryday next, the Town will, if they see Cause, make Choice of One, or more Delegates, to represent them in the Provincial Congress, to be held at Cambridge on or before the first Day of February next.——

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned to Fryday next the 26 instant, 11 O'Clock Forenoon ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall p Adjournment of the May Meeting December 30th. 1774 ——

Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair ——

The Comittee appointed by the Town to consider of the Expediency of filling up the Town Dock; & also make inquiry into the Titles of the Abutters thereon, being called upon for their Report, several of that Comittee present, acquainted the Town that they were not yet able to make Report ——

Moved & Voted, that the above Comittee be desired to make Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting.——

On a motion made Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to the 1st. Wednesday in February next, being the first of that Month, 10 O'Clock forenoon

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall by Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting, December 30th. 1774 ——

Mr. Samuel Adams in the Chair

The Comittee appointed to take under Consideration a Paper

signed T. Gage, being an Answer to a Letter written to General Gage by the Honble. Peyton Randolph Esq. President of the late Continental Congress — Reported as follows, Viz^t^.

[7.] We would not, unless urged by the clearest Necessity, have taken up the Consideration of General Gage's Letter to the Honorable Peyton Randolph Esq. late President of the Continental Congress, but we Conceive that Letter, tho' it *appears* to be addressed to a Gentleman in his *private* Capacity, has a strong Tendency to impress the whole Continent with Sentiments very unfavourable to this afflicted Town. We shall not intentionally throw any disagreeable Imputation upon the General, but shall endeavor only to defend ourselves against the injurious Tendency of the Letter.— The General contrary to the known Sense of every Man of common Understanding, has been pleased to insinuate, that the Complaints of the Town of Boston against his Conduct were utterly groundless & unreasonable & would have the Continent believe that, not *he* but the People of the Province, & especially the Inhabitants of Boston, were the Aggressions in all the Differences which have arisen. — We freely acknowledge that the Arrival of a British Army, with a profess'd Design of enforcing Acts of the British Parliament, destructive of our Liberties, gave a great & universal Alarm, & it cannot appear strange that we should be considering of the Measures necessary to preserve our just Rights & Privileges. We hoped however that peaceable and gentle means would have effected our Deliverance: We believed that his Excellency would have laid Some Proposals before the General Assembly, which he had Summoned to meet at Salem; but after hearing both the Council & House of Representatives in a Manner, which we shall not animadvert on, he was pleased to dissolve the Assembly: The People were then compelled to turn their tho'ts & Attention to other Methods of preventing the impending Destruction. And, tho, thus distressed, his Excellency would gladly have prevented them from availing themselves of the Counsel of each other in Town Meetings; & actually ordered the Marching of a Body of armed Soldiers to disperse the Inhabitants of the Town of Salem, when peaceably assembled to consult upon the most important Interests of themselves & Posterity: This was followed by the seizing of the Powder in the Magazine at Cambridge, & of the Common, which had been lent to the first Regiment in Middlesex: The Mounting a Number of Field Pieces on an Eminence in Boston Common: the Stationing Guard in various Parts of the [8.] Town, & many other Acts, which could not leave any Doubt in the Minds of the People, of the Generals Intention to employ Military Force against the Province, at length roused the People to think of defending themselves & their Property by Arms, if nothing less could save them from Violence & Rapine. For the Justification of the Conduct of the People in that Respect, we may safely appeal to the Continent. — to the World, & to the supreme Omniscient Governor of the Universe. — All the Transactions from the first Arrival of the Troops we hope will hereafter be critically & judiciously examined: And we trust that the time will come, when we shall have a fair & impartial Hearing.— We mean not now to give particular Answers,

except such Parts of the General's Letter, as seem to charge the Continental Congress, with having misconceived the Facts stated in their Letter to him.

First, His Excellency says, that from the Letter (meaning the Letter from the Honble. Continental Congress) "People would be led to believe, that Works were raised against the Town of Boston, private Property invaded, the Soldiers suffered to insult the Inhabitants & the Communication between the Town & County shut up & molested" How far his Excellency was governed by the Consideration of what Answer he should make, when he gave this Town to the Expressions of the Congress, need not be enquired into. To this Charge his Excellency replies, that "There is not a single Gun pointed against the Town." His Excellency did not advert to the Number of Field Pieces, which were, at the Time the Letter was written, & long before, pointed against the Town from the Common; but if the Assertion had been literally true, it would not in the least affect the Point under Consideration.——

Are not the Works on the Neck in Reality erected against the Town? Are they not designed to intimidate the Inhabitants, & to lead them to think they were altogether in the Power of the Army? The Continental Congress plainly express the Sense in which they mean to be understood by his Excellency. They say, "that the Fortifications erecting within that Town (Boston) the frequent Invasions of private Property, & the repeated Insults they (the Inhabitants) receive from the Soldiery, have given them great Reason to suspect a Plan is formed, very destructive to them, & tending to overthrow the Liberties of America." — The General therefore has in no Way answer'd the Charge bro't against him, but has only by varying the Expression, attempted to elude it.——

[**9.**] The next Assertion is, That no Man's Property has been seized or hurt, except the King's. — We need not enumerate all the Instances of Property seized; it is enough to Say, that a Number of Cannon, the Property of a respectable Merchant in this Town were seized & carried off by force: That Timber & other Lumber have been violently taken from the Owners — that rightful Proprietors have been driven from their Lands. — It is impossible for us to mention One half of the Influences, in which Property has been hurt they are notorious to every Inhabitant, & have been made known to the Public from time to time.

His Excellency pleased to say that, "no Troops have ever given less Cause for Complaint, & greater Care was never taken to prevent it." What Care has been taken is not our Part to determine, we are ready to admit the most candid Opinion. But we beg leave to say, that the Insults received from Officers & Soldiers, have been in many Instances, such as were shocking to a spirited People, & of which, Humanity in some Instances, Decency in others, & in all, a generous Disposition to avoid placing even those, who have injured us, in an odious Light, prevent us from giving a particular Account.

The General declares that, "the Communication between the Town & Country has always been free & unmolested, & is so still." We shall only give the Facts. — Guards were fixt at every Entrance of

the Town — No Person was allowed to cross the Ferry to Charlestown after 8 O'Clock in the Evening, however urgent his Business — Passengers on the Neck were stopt for Hours together by the Guard—their Property injured or destroyed.—One Inhabitant stopt in his Chaise, & his Horse stabb'd with a Bayonet—others were a shamefully beaten abused & confined, & many other Instances, very alarming to our Friends in the Country, whose free Ingress to the Town is essential to our Subsistence.

The General perhaps might not justify these Enormities; but could he not have prevented them by removing the Cause of those frequent Abuses? Be that as it may; could he with Justice assert that "the Comunication between the Town & Country has always been free & unmolested, & is so still."

We wish the General had given us some particular Instances concerning "the Menaces of Blood & Slaughter," which he intimates made it his Duty to alarm & distress the People in the Manner he has already done.——

[10.] We doubt not that we shall be able fully to answer his Excellency, whenever he is pleased to descend to particulars. We can only say at present that we conceive his Excellency to have been very ill advised in the Measures he has pursued, & that we ardently wish for an Opportunity to meet our Adversaries upon a just Ground.——

The above Report having been considered Paragraph by Paragraph, it was Voted, Nem. Con. that the same be accepted & that the Moderator of this Meeting be desired to transmit a Copy of the Report inclosed in a respectful Letter to the Honble. Peyton Randolph Esq. by the first Opportunity.——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the foregoing Report be published in the several News Papers. ——

The Resolves of the late Provincial Congress, recommending the Choice of new Delegates for another Provincial Congress, were read, whereupon a Motion was made for the Choice of one or more Delegates for the Provincial Congress, designed to be held at the Town of Cambridge on or before the 1^{t}. of February next — which passed in the Affirmative

Voted, that Seven be the Number of Delegates to be chosen for the Purpose aforesaid.——

The Inhabitants having brought in their Votes for Seven Delegates for the intended Provincial Congress, upon sorting them it appeared, that the following Gentlemen were chosen, Viz^{t}.,

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
M^{r}. Samuel Adams
Honble. John Hancock Esq.
D^{r}. Joseph Warren
D^{r}. Benjamin Church
M^{r}. Oliver Wendell
M^{r}. John Pitts

The following Vote expressive of the Gratitude of the Town for the benevolent Assistance received from the other Colonies under our present Calamities, & the kind Recommendation of the late respectable Continental Congress for future Support — Passed Nem. Cont.——

[11.] Whereas the Town of Boston is unfortunately become the most striking Monument of Ministerial Tyranny & Barbarity, as is particularly exhibited in the sudden shutting up this Port thereby cruelly depriving the Inhabitants of this Metropolis of the Means they have hitherto used to support their Families; And whereas our Brethren of in the other Colonies, well knowing that we are suffering in the common Cause of America & of Mankind have, from a generous & Brotherly Disposition contributed largely towards our Support in this Time of our General Distress (without which many of our worthy and virtuous Citizens must have been in imminent Danger of perishing with Cold & Hunger) — And whereas the Honble. Members of the Continental Congress have kindly recommended us to our Sister Colonies, as worthy of farther Support from them, while the Iron Hand of unremitting Oppression lies heavy upon us. Therefore Voted, that this Town, truely sensible of the generous Assistance they have received from their sympathizing Brethren, return them their warmest & most sincere Thanks for the same: And they pray that GOD, whose Beneficence they so gloriously imitate, may bestow upon them the Blessings he has promised to all them, who feed the hungry & cloath the naked: And the Thanks of this Town are accordingly hereby given to our Benefactor aforementioned, & to the Honble. Members of the Congress for their Benevolence towards us, expressed as aforesaid, which Support, if continued cannot fail of animating us to remain stedfast in defending the Rights of America.——

The Honble. James Otis Esqr. being present moved that he might be dismissed as One of the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Boston, And the Question being accordingly put, passed in the Affirmative.

Upon a Motion made & seconded,

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Honble. James Otis Esqr. for his Services, as a Member of the Committee of Correspondence, & for his Offers of such farther Services as he might be capable of rendering.——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday the 1^t^. day of February next, 11 O'Clock forenoon.

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned ——

[12.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall by Adjournment of the May Meeting, February 1^t^. 1775.——

M^r^. Adams the Moderator being at Cambridge, attending the Provincial Congress,

M^r^. William Whitwell

was chosen Moderator pro temp. by a Hand Vote.

The Committee appointed to consider the Request of a Number of the Inhabitants of the Town, that the Incumberances on Dock Square may be removed & Measures taken for filling up the Dock that so Room may be made for the Standing of Horses Hacks of those Country People, who bring Provisions for sale to the Market & to treat with the Proprietors, if the Committee have any Doubt, as to the Title of the Town to said Dock — Now Report — That they

have met several Times & examined into the Town's Right to said Dock, & into some Privileges anciently granted to certain Persons, who then lived near to said Dock, or were interested in Lands abutting thereupon: And upon the whole the Comittee are of Opinion, that the Town have an undoubted Right to said Dock, & may fill it up, or improve the same as they shall judge proper, so far as to meet the Slip that enters into said Dock just above the Bridge; & if the same is filled up the Committee propose to the Town, that a Passage may be laid out of such a Wedth as will be most convenient for Carts, Trucks & other Carriages, beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Doçk, & running upon a Line nearly strait, between the Dwelling House of the late Thomas Tyler Esqr. & the Warehouse of John Boreland Esq. & that when said Dock is filled up the Rails above be bro't down, & fixed on the Sides of said Passage Way. The Committee judge that this will make a Passage Way full large for the Accommodation of all Carts, Horses & Carriages for Persons that bring Provisions for Sale, & it will thereby prevent the great Annoyances Inconveniences & Dangers, that the Inhabitants & others are exposed to by the Country People filling up with their Carts [**13.**] Teams, Stalls, Benches & Stands, the Street & Square from M^{r}. Simsons Store-shop to the Market: And the Comittee would recomend to the Town, to take such Methods as shall be effectual to prevent, to prevent any of the Inhabitants of the Town, & all other Persons whatever, standing or continuing in said Square, or in the narrow Street between M^{r}. Dolbear's Shop & Deacon Newell's Shop so far into Union Street, as runs on a Line with the North Side of Ann Street, & also in all other Places & Avenues that lead to the Market, or to the aforesaid Places assigned for the Conveniency thereof; & that none be allowed to fix, stand or continue without the aforesaid Limits near to the same, with Carts, Horses Stalls, Benches Wheelbarrows or Baskets, or any of them for the Sale of any Article or Commodity whatever; & if any Person shall transgress herein, that they be prosecuted for the same: And for the Encouragement of the Country People, who bring any thing for Sale to the Market, the Comittee propose, that it be left to the Discretion of the Selectmen, whether any, Consideration, & how much shall be paid by those Persons, that shall improve or occupy any Part of Faneuil Hall Market, or the Enclosures of the same; And that these Regulations may take Effect, the Comittee would farther recommend to the Inhabitants, that they do not purchase Provisions, or any other Article of such Persons as shall refuse to comply with the same; & if the Town shall determine to fill up said Dock, the Comittee advise that it be done as speedily as may be, & that the Selectmen be desired & directed to take Care, that all Drains & Conveyances of Water, that belong to private Persons, & that have heretofore emptied themselves into said Dock, be carried out at the Expense of the Town, so as no Stoppage or Obstruction may happen to private Property. The Comittee would mention to the Town, that the Heirs of the late D^{r}. Willm. Davis claim a Right to the Dockage, Wharffage & Morage of such Vessels as can lay in that lay in that Part of the Dock, that is before the Warehouses of the late

John Fayerweather Esq; but the same not appearing Clear to the Comittee, they only say upon it, that when it shall appear they have such Right, an adequate Consideration should be made them, & which the Town will undoubtedly make to them —— All which is humbly submitted by

EZEKIEL GOLDTHWAIT
JOHN SCOLLAY
[14.] JOSEPH JACKSON
JOSHUA BLANCHARD
JOHN ROWE

the above Report having been voted, that the Consideration of the same be referred to the Annual Town Meeting in March next.

The Overseers of the Poor having represented to the Town the Difficulties they are under for Want of Money to support the Alms House, the Collectors of last Year not having yet taken the Books, It was

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, & hereby is directed & impowered to borrow upon Interest for the Supply of the Almshouse, One thousand Pounds lawful Money for One Year, & that he give his negotiable Note or Notes for the same, which Note, or Notes are to be paid off upon the Receipt of the Money now due to this Town.

Voted, That all Matters & things that remain unfinish'd at this Meeting be & hereby are referred over to the Annual Town Meeting in March next.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall February 5^{t}. 1775 p Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting.——

M^{r}. Samuel Adams the Moderator of the Meeting being absent, & attending the Provincial Congress,

M^{r}. William Whitwell

was chosen Moderator Pro Tempore.——

Upon a Motion made

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday the 22^{d}. instant 11 O'Clock Forenoon

And the Meeting was adjourned accordingly.

Town met according to Adjournment February 22^{d}. 1775 — 11 O'Clock A.M.

Upon a Motion made Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 6th. Day of March next, 9 O'Clock A.M.

[15.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, legally warned, at Faneuil Hall, March 6th. 1775, by Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting. ——

M^{r}. Samuel Adams Moderator.

The Comittee appointed by the Town the 5th. of March last, to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration, the 5th. of March Instant, to perpetuate the Memory of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the Fifth of March 1770 — by a Party of Soldiers, under the Order & Eye of Capt. Thomas Preston of the 29th. Regiment, Reported ——

That having met together for the Purposes mentioned in the

Town's Vote, they had made Choice of Joseph Warren Esq. to deliver an Oration on the 6th. of March instant, who had accordingly accepted of said Service,——

The foregoing Report having been made by Mr. Samuel Adams, Chairman of the Committee — the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

Upon a Motion made, the Town took into Consideration what Time would be best for the Oration to be pronounced, as also the Place that would be most suitable for the Purpose — whereupon—

Voted, that the Oration be delivered at half past Eleven O'Clock, at the Old South Meeting House, the Hall not being capacious enough to contain the Inhabitants, that may attend upon this Occasion: the Committee of that Society having upon Application consented, that said Meeting House should be made Use of for this Service.——

Voted, that the Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Mr. Samuel Austin.
Mr. William Cooper
be a Committee to wait upon Joseph Warren Esq. & acquaint him, that it is the Desire of the Town, that the Oration may be delivered at the old South Meeting House, at half after 11 O'Clock this Forenoon.——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be now adjourned to the Old South Meeting House, to meet there at half past Eleven O'Clock.——

[**16.**] The Town met according to Adjournment, at the Old South Meeting House half past 11 O'Clock A.M.——

The Committee appointed to wait on Joseph Warren Esq. to acquaint him with the Vote of the Town, respecting the Time and Place for the Delivery of an Oration ——

Reported, that said Gentleman was ready to comply with the Orders of the Town made known to him by their Committee

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that there be a Collection made in this Meeting for Mr. Christopher Monk, a young Man, now languishing under a Wound he received in his Lungs, by a Shot from Preston's Butchering Party of Soldiers on the 5th. of March 1770 —

An Oration to commemorate the Horrid Massacre of the fifth of March 1770, & to impress on the Minds of the Citizens the ruinous Tendency of standing Armies being placed in free & populous Cities &c was delivered by Joseph Warren Esq. to a large and crouded Audience, & received by them with great Applause.

Upon a Motion made & seconded

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to Joseph Warren Esq. for the Elegant & Spirited Oration delivered by him at their Request, in Commemoration of the horrid Massacre, perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers, of the 29th. Regiment, under the Command of Capt. Thomas Preston Also — Voted, that

Mr. Samuel Adams
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Benjamin Church Esq.
Mr. John Pitts

Mr. John Scollay Esq.
Col. Thomas Marshall
Mr. Samuel Austin

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon Joseph Warren Esq. & in the Name of the Town to require of him a Copy of said Oration for the Press.——

Moved, & also Voted, that what Money shall be collected at this Meeting for the Relief of Mr. Monk, be put into the hands of the Selectmen, & by them applied for the Purpose aforesaid as they shall judge best for the Sufferer.——

[17.] Upon a Motion made & Seconded

Voted, that Mr. Samuel Adams
The honble. John Hancock Esq.
Joseph Warren Esq.
Mr. John Brown
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
John Adams Esq.
Benjamin Church Esq.
Mr. John Pitts
John Scollay Esq.

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee, to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March next, to perpetuate the Memory of the *Horrid Massacre*, perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers of the 29th. Regiment, under the Command of Capt. Thomas Preston: And to impress upon our Minds, the ruinous Tendency of Standing Armies, in free & populous Cities, in a Time of Peace; & the Necessity of such noble Exertions in all future Times, as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the Designs of the Conspirators may be still frustrated.——

A Collection for Mr. Monk was made, agreable to a foregoing Vote, which amounted to the Sum of & the same was lodged with the Selectmen for the Use of said Monk.——

Upon a Motion made and seconded,

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 27th. Day of March 1775, 10 O'Clock forenoon.

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at Faneuil Hall, on Monday the 13th. day or March Anno Domini 1775.

Prayer was made by the Revd. Dr. Cooper ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting — Read ——

Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read.——

[18.] The Town brought in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

The honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen, who took the Chair accordingly.——

Mr. William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, & took the Oath of Office for the faithful Discharge of his Duty, which Oath was administred to him by Mr. Justice

The Town proceeded to the Choice of Seven Selectmen and the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

John Scollay Esq.
The hon^ble^. John Hancock Esq.
M^r^. Timothy Newell
Col: Thomas Marshall
M^r^. Samuel Austin
M^r^. Oliver Wendell
M^r^. John Pitts

were chosen Selectmen for the Year ensuing.——

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the poor & upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barrett Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
M^r^. Benjamin Dolbear
M^r^. Willm. Whitwel
M^r^. Willm. Greenleaf
John Leveret Esq.
Capt. Samuel Partridge
M^r^. Samuel Whitwel
M^r^. Samuel Abbot
M^r^. Daniel Waldo
M^r^. John White
Capt. Edward Proctor

were chosen Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.——

[19.] The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens, and upon Sorting them it appeared, that,

M^r^. Pennel Bowen
Capt. Samuel Ridgway
M^r^. John Hooton - - - excused ——
Capt. Jonathan Freeman
M^r^. Peter Verstille
M^r^. Samuel Bangs - - - excused——
M^r^. Nathaniel Shepherd
M^r^. Joseph Webb
M^r^. Ebenezer Dorr
M^r^. Samuel Sloane
M^r^. Stephen Hall
M^r^. Bessinger Foster - - excused ——

were chosen Wardens for the Year ensuing.——

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire Wards, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Greenleaf Esq.
M^r^. William Cooper
Col: Thomas Marshall
Capt Benjamin Waldo
M^r^. Samuel Adams - - - excused——
Francis Shaw Esq.
Capt Job Prince
Capt Edward Proctor
Capt John Pulling

Deacon Caleb Davis
Capt Abiel Ruddock
Capt Samuel Banet
M^r^. Stephen Cleverly
M^r^. Ebenezer Hancock
M^r^. Thomas Crafts Junr.

were chosen Fire Wards for the Year ensuing.——

[**20.**] The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

M^r^. David Jeffries

was chosen Town Treasurer for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made & seconded, the Question was put — Whether Collectors of Taxes shall be chose seperate from Constables — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pounds Fine to such Persons as shall be chosen into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, & shall decline Serving.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Twelve Constables, the Persons chose into the Office are

Messrs. Augustus Hail
Stephen Syms
John Bennet
George Thomas
Thomas Bell
Joseph Foye
John Coverly
Willm. Todd
John Hammett
Samuel Greenleaf
Matthew Nazro
John Wells

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in, & being sealed up in Town Meeting, were delivered to M^r^. Constable Bennet, for him to return to the Court of Sessions at their next Meeting.

M^r^. Samuel Abbot having sent in his Desire to the Town that he might be excused from serving any longer, as an Overseer of the Poor, on Account of his being obliged to be much out of Town, he was accordingly excused.——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to M^r^. Samuel Abbot for his good Services as an

[**21.**] Overseer for a Number of Years past.——

The Town brought in their Votes for an Overseer of the Poor, in the Room of M^r^. Samuel Abbot, who was excused & upon sorting them it appeared, that

M^r^. Jonathan Mason

was chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing.——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Warden, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

M^r^. Adam Colson

was chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing.——

M^r^. Samuel Adams chosen a Fire Ward, having excused himself from serving in that Office ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Fire Ward in his Room, & upon Sorting them it appeared, that

Ezekiel Cheever Esq.

was chosen a Fire Ward for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Mr. Samuel Adams for his good Services, as a Fire Ward in Years past.——

Messrs. Martin Brimmer
Andrew Brimmer - - - - excused
Simon Tufts
Nathaniel Greenough
Jeremiah Allen
Edward Gray
Abraham Burgess
James Swan
Jonathan Pollard
Lendal Pitts
Joseph Sherburne Junr.
Joseph Ward

were chosen Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.——

[22.] Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P.M. Town met according to Adjournment

Mr. Andrew Brimmer, agreable to the Request, was excused from serving as a Clerk of the Market.——

Mr. Samuel Bangs, agreable to his Request, was excused from serving as a Warden.——

Voted, that the Assessors be, & hereby are impowered & directed to set for Abatement of such Taxes as they shall think reasonable, on every Wednesday, untill the last Wednesday in April inclusive, & no longer, saving that they be allowed to sit the Two last Weeks in November, for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an Opportunity of applying in the above limitted Time, by reason of their being out of the Province — At which time they are also allowed and impowered, to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April, & the last Day of November ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared, that,

Deacon Benjamin Church
Mr. Daniel Pecker
Deacon Jonathan Brown
Gyles Harris Esq.
Capt Samuel Downe
Mr. William Lowder
Mr. Samuel Johnson

were chosen Assessors for the Year ensuing.——

Benjamin Austin Esq.

was chosen Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. John Greenough
Clement Collins
Abraham Howard

Andrew Symmes
Joseph Butler
Benjamin Page
[23.] Joseph Ford
John Rogers
Thomas Uran
Edward Ranger
Jacob Thayer
John Bulfinch jun^r.
Joseph Ballard
James Blake
John Lambert jun^r.
Nathan Hancock
Ebenezer Flood

were chosen Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. William Crafts
John Lambert jun^r.
Nathaniel Wales
Nathan Hancock

were chosen Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing. ——

Messrs. Daniel Parks
Samuel Bangs
Jacob Holland
Benjamin Bass
Nathan Green

were chosen Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. Adam Colson
Thomas Edes

were chosen Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. John Bound - - - - - - - - dead
John Owen
Peter Cotta
Menasseh Masters
Benjamin Barnard
Edward Cowell
Israel Cook
Richard Flood
[24.] Samuel Prichard
Benjamin Sault
Jacob Williams
Joshua Pico

were chosen Cullers of Staves & Hoops for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Benjamin Blake
Ralph Morgan
Elijah Searl

were chosen Hogreeves for the Year ensuing——

M^r. William M^c. Fadden

was chosen a Hayward for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Jonathan Farnum - - - - - Wards 1
William Williams - - - - - - - - 2
Thomas Bradford - - - - - - - - 3
Thomas Greenough - - - - - - - - 4

Jonathan Stoddard - - - - - - - 5
Jonathan Rogers - - - - - - - 6
Jacob Bucknam - - - - - - - - 7
Richard Salter - - - - - - - - 8
Jeremiah Russel - - - - - - - - 9
Samuel Warden - - - - - - - - 10
Henry Quincy - - - - - - - - 11
Nathaniel Cabbot - - - - - - - 12

were chosen Scavengers for the Year ensuing.

On a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Comittee of Correspondence be directed to draw up an exact State of the Behavior of the Troops, under the Command of General Gage; & of the Navy, under the Command of Admiral Graves, going so far back as they shall judge proper; & also carefully to observe their Conduct in future, taking their Information upon Oath, before Two Justices of the Peace, Quorum Unus; always giving legal Notice to the Persons accused of disorderly Proceedings — and Report to the Town.–

Mr. James Swan, upon his Request, was excused from serving as a Clerk of the Market.——

[25.] Voted, that Capt. John Bradford
Benjamin Austin Esq.
Major Thomas Daws
Isaac Smith Esq.
Mr. Alexander Hill

be & they hereby are appointed a Comittee, to Audit the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor; & the said Comittee are impowered, when they shall audit said Accounts, to allow such of the Overseers, as shall Advance Money for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the Time so advanced, till they shall have audited said Accounts; & they are also desired to report from time to time a State of the Treasury respecting the Debts & Credits, & on any Matters that they may think proper.——

The Selectmen

chose Surveyors of the High Ways for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. John White
John Lucas

were chosen Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing.

Col: Joseph Jackson
Col: John Leveret
Mr. John Sweetser

were chosen Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, & they are desired and impowered to give all needful Directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, & affixing the Price thereof from time to time, as Occasion shall require; & the said Comittee are desired & directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be ground at the New Mills, near the Mill Bridge, now occupied by Mr. George Leonard.——

Messrs. Thomas Green
John Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing.——

Upon a Motion made & seconded

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is impowered

[26.] And directed to borrow on Interest a Sum not exceeding Six Hundred Pounds lawful Money for the Use of the Overseers the Poor, to purchase Grain &c for the Alms House —

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is impowered & directed to give his negotiable Notes on Interest, to such of the Overseers of the poor, as are in Advance for the Relief of the Poor, for such Sums as appear to be due to them respectively upon the auditing of their Accounts to the present Month

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is impowered & directed, to borrow upon Interest, to the Amount of One thousand & Eighteen Pounds ten shillings & Two Pence, being the Town's Proportion of the Province Tax for 1774 & that the said Treasurer be, & he hereby is directed to pay the same unto Henry Gardnes Esq. of Stow, who is appointed by the Provincial Congress to recieve all Monies due to the Province, & that his Receipt shall be a Discharge to the Town Treasurer; & the Town farther engage to indemnify said Treasurer, for any Damage or Loss that may be occasioned to him by his paying said Money to the said Henry Gardner Esq.

Voted, that the Consideration of Schoolmasters Salaries & all other Salaries & Grants be referred over to next May Meeting——

Moved & Voted, that a Comittee be now appointed to consider & report at the Adjournment what they think proper to be done relative to the Collectors of Taxes Premium Bonds & for collecting the Tax of 1774.——

Voted, that Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
M^{r}. Henry Bromfield
M^{r}. William Davis
M^{r}. William Greenleaf
M^{r}. Ezekiel Price
Capt. John Bradford
Thomas Daws Esq.

be, & they hereby are appointed a Committee for this Purpose

The Report of the Comittee on filling up the Dock again read.——

[27.] Whereupon a Motion was made & carried, that the Consideration of of said Report be referred to the Adjournment of this Meeting.——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 3^{d}. of April, 10 O'Clock Forenoon

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally warned, at Faneuil Hall, March 27th. by Adjournment of the Port Bill Meeting.——

M^{r}. Samuel Adams, Moderator of this Meeting, being now out of Town, attending his Duty at the Provincial Congress, now sitting at Concord ——

A Motion was made, that a Moderator Pro. Temp. be now chosen,— whereupon

M^{r}. William Whitwel

was chosen a Moderator Pro Tempore,

The Petition of the Selectmen & Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Medford, in behalf of said Town, Setting forth.——

"That previous to the shutting up the Port of Boston a great Part of the Inhabitants of Medford subsisted by Brick-making, & Numbers of other poor Inhabitants there, were employed in transporting those Bricks to Boston, where was our Market for them both in supplying the Town, & also Vessels in the Harbor, from whence, they were exported to foreign Parts, in great Quantities — But since by the Operation of the Port Act, this our Trade is at an End, & those poor People are put out of Business, & themselves & Families are involved in the same Calamity & Distress, for Want of Employ, as are the Poor of Boston & Charlestown, nor can they subsist without some charitable Relief afforded them — And whereas many Cities & Towns in this & the other Colonies, have generously contributed to the Relief of those industrious poor in Boston, who are reduced to Want, merely by the aforesaid Act, of which Contributions the Town of Boston has liberally distributed a Part to the like poor in Charlestown.——

[28.] The Inhabitants of Medford, in a Town Meeting assembled the 14th. Instant, upon Consideration of the Premisses have directed us to acquaint you with our distressed Circumstances, & to petition for your kind Assistance.

We do therefore, in behalf of said Town, pray that you would consider of unhappy Condition, & that you would (if the Circumstances of your Poor admit, in your known Benevolence & Humanity, grant us (who are suffering in the common Cause) some small Portion of that Liberality which Providence has put into your Hands" — was read, & after some Debate thereon— It was moved & seconded that the Consideration of this Petition be referred to the annual Meeting in May next — & that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to insert said Petition for Consideration in the Warrant that shall be issued for that Meeting — and the Question being accordingly put, it passed in the Affirmative. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 17th. Day of April next, 12 O'Clock Forenoon.——

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 28th. Day of March Anno Domini 1775.——

Warrant for calling the Meeting read ——

Upon a Motion made Voted, that a Moderator for this Meeting be now chose by a Hand Vote ——

Mr. William Whitwell

was chose Moderator of this Meeting & took the Chair accordingly ——

The Selectmen laid before the Inhabitants the present State of the Small Pox in this Town, whereby it appeared, that there are on Board the Hospital Ship in this Harbor Thirty Eight Persons [29.] With the Small Pox, three of whom were sent on Board

this Day: At the Hospital at West Boston, five Persons with this Distemper; two of whom were sent, from a Chamber in Mr. Runk's House, at the Head of Cross Street, occupied by a Soldier; a Woman from the Lamb Tavern at the South Part of the Town; a man from his Dwelling near Dr. Byles's Meeting House, & another Man from the Royal Exchange Tavern in King's Street: That Mr. Runk's Wife at his House at the Head of Cross Street, was taken with the Distemper, where Guards are placed to prevent a Comunication of the Infection; & that the Hospital Ship was this Forenoon removed some Distance from the Wharff.

The Town having duely considered the foregoing, & all Circumstances relative to the Small Pox among us, & being of Opinion that the Probability was in favor of the Distempers not spreading. ——

Voted, *Nemine Contradicente*, That the Selectmen of this Town be desired to continue the same Vigilance they have hitherto shewn, to prevent the Spreading of the Small Pox in this Place. ——

Sundry Laws relative to the Small Pox were read — & Capt. Hunter of the Hospital Ship being present, & questioned by the Moderator, he informed the Town, that there were Thirty Five Persons on Board his Ship with the Small Pox, all sent there since Thursday Seven Night.

Upon a Motion made & seconded

Voted, Nem: Con: that the Selectmen be desired to see that the Law relative to the concealing & spreading of Infectious Distempers, be put into Execution against any Persons, who shall make Attempts of that Nature, by Innoculation, or in any other way; & that no One might plead Ignorance of said Law; It was farther

Voted, that the Town Clerk be directed to publish such Paragraph or Paragraphs of the Law as affix the Penalty, for concealing & spreading infectious Distempers; also the Proceedings of this Meeting relative to the Small Pox.——

Then the Meeting was dissolved. ——

[**30.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally warned, at Faneuil Hall, Monday April 3d. 1775, p Adjournment of the March Meeting. ——

Mr. Samuel Adams Moderator of this Meeting being at the Congress now sitting at Concord.——

Samuel Swift Esq.

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting Pro Tempore.

A letter from Mr. Penuel Bowen chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing, desiring the Town would excuse him from serving in that Office, was read — whereupon it was motioned, that the Consideration of his Request be referred to the Adjournment —& the Question being accordingly put, Passed in Affirmative ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for three Clerks of the Market, & upon sorting them, it appeared that,

Mr. William Mollineux
Mr. Robert Williams
Mr. John Steel Tyler

were chosen Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

The Comittee appointed to consider & report at the Adjournment what they think proper to be done, relative to the Collectors of Taxes Premium Bonds &c for Collecting the Tax of 1774 — Report

That it will be best for the Town be chose suitable Persons to collect the Tax of Eight Thousand Pounds lawful Money granted by the Town on the 19th Day of July last for the Relief of the Poor, and defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town — And when such Persons are chosen & sworn into that Office, that the Assessors be directed to deliver the Books containing said Tax to said Collectors, they first giving Bonds with Sureties to the Satisfaction of the Selectmen, that they will use their utmost Endeavors to collect said Tax, or so much thereof as shall be in their Power, & when collected, that they will pay in the same to the Town Treasurer for the Time being, & as an Encouragement [**31.**] To the Collectors to exert themselves in their Office — The Comittee propose to the Town, that a Premium of Five p Cent be allowed, them on all such Sums as they shall collect & pay into the Treasury, & that said Collectors shall not be answerable or accountable for any or farther Sums, than they shall collect, & pay; provided they render an Account to the Selectmen, upon Oath, when requested, of all the Sums they have received, & of whom, & that they have not been able to collect any more of the Tax delivered them, than is contained in said Account; & that said Collectors shall also deliver to the Selectmen, a List of the Names of such Inhabitants, as shall not have paid their Tax, or shall refuse to pay them, whenever they shall require the same.——

The foregoing Report being read, a Motion was made & obtained, that the farther Consideration of this Report be referred to the Adjournment of this Meeting.——

[Page 32 blank.]

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday. the 17th. Instant 10 O'Clock. ——

[**33.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, at Watertown.
the 5th. Day of March Anno Domini 1776.——

Benjamin Austin Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting

The Comittee appointed by the Town, the 6th. of March last, to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration the 5th. of March instant, to perpetuate the Memory of the horrid Massacre, perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers under the Order & Eye of Captain Thomas Preston of the 29th. Regiment.

Reported,

That having met together for the Purposes mentioned in the Town's Vote, they had unanimously made Choice of the Revd Peter Thacher, to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March instant, who had accordingly accepted of that Service. ——

The above Report having been made by the Chairman of the Comittee, the Question was put, — "Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

On a Motion made Voted, that

John Brown Esq.

Nathaniel Appleton Esq.
Nathaniel Barber Esq.

be a Comittee to wait on the Rev^{d}. Peter Thacher, & acquaint him, That it is the Desire of the Town, that the Oration be delivered in Watertown Meeting House this Day at the Hour mentioned in the Notification for said Meeting.

On the Invitation of the Town, a Prayer was made by the Rev^{d}. D^{r}. Samuel Cooper — very suitable for the Occasion ——

An *Oration* to commemorate the Horrid Massacre of the 5th. of March 1770, & to impress upon the Minds of the Citizens the ruinous Tendency of standing Armies being placed in free & populous Cities in Time of Peace, was delivered by [**34.**] The Rev^{d}. Peter Thacher to a numerous Audience, and received by them with the greatest Applause. ——

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given, to the Rev^{d}. Peter Thacher for his —— and spirited Oration delivered by him at their Request, in Commemoration of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers, under the Command of Captain Thomas Preston — also

Voted, that
The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
William Cooper
John Pitts
John Brown
Nathaniel Appleton
Nathaniel Barber Esq.
Capt. William Mackay

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee to wait upon the Rev^{d}. Peter Thacher, & in the Name of the Town, to require of him a Copy of the said Oration for the Press. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded
Voted, the Honble. John Hancock Esq.
John Pitts Esq.
Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
John Brown Esq.
Honble. Samuel Adams Esq.
Benjamin Austin Esq.
Nathaniel Barber Esq.
William Cooper
David Jeffries
Nathaniel Appleton

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March next, to [**35.**] Perpetuate the Memory of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers under the Command of Capt. Thomas Preston of the 29th. Regiment; & to impress upon our Minds the ruinous Tendency of standing Armies being placed in free & populous Cities in Time of Peace; & the Necessity of such noble Exertions in all future Times, as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the Designs of the Conspirators against the public Liberty may be still frustrated. ——

Voted, Unanimously, that
The Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Benj[a] Austin Esq. Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof. ——
Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at the old Brick Meeting House, on Fryday the 29th. Day of March Anno Dom. 1776.
Prayer was made by the Rev[d] D[r]. Cooper. ——
Notification for calling the Meeting read. ——
Sundry Laws enjoin'd to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read ——
The Town brought in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, & upon sorting them it appear'd, that
The Hon[ble]. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen unanimously, who took the Chair, & made a Congratulary Speech to the Inhabitants, upon the Recovery of the Town out of the hands of the British Enemy, & for the present Opportunity of transacting the Affairs & Business of the Town in a free Town Meeting. ——
[**36.**] William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, & took the Oath of Office for the faithful Discharge of his Duty. ——
The Town proceeded to the Choice of Seven Selectmen, & the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

John Scollay Esq.
The hon[ble]. John Hancock Esq.
M[r]. Timothy Newell
Col: Thomas Marshall
M[r]. Samuel Austin
M[r]. Oliver Wendell
M[r]. John Pitts

were chosen Selectmen for the Year ensuing. ——
The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

William Phillips Esq.
John Leveret Esq.
Capt Samuel Partridge
M[r]. Samuel Whitwell
M[r]. Daniel Waldo
M[r]. John White
Capt Edward Procter
M[r]. Jonathan Mason
M[r]. Benjamin Dolbear
M[r]. William Powell
M[r]. Ebenezer Storer - - - - - excused
M[r]. John Sweetser

were chosen Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing. ——
The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

M[r]. Penuel Bowen

Capt Samuel Ridgway
[37.] Capt. Jonathan Freeman
Mr. Peter Vestille
Mr. Nathaniel Shepherd
Mr. Joseph Webb
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr
Mr. Samuel Sloan
Mr. Stephen Hall
Mr. Adam Colsom

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing. ——

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire Wards, & upon sorting them it appeared, that ——

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Greenough
William Cooper
Thomas Marshall Esq.
Capt John Pulling
Capt Edward Procter
Thomas Crafts Esq.
Major Abiel Ruddock
Caleb Davis Esq.
Capt Benjamin Waldo
Capt Samuel Barrett
Mr. Ebenezer Hancock
Capt Isaac Phillips
Major Paul Reviere
Mr. Thos. Tyleston
Capt Caleb Hopkins

were chose Fire Wards for the Year ensuing. ——

The inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. David Jeffries

was chosen Town Treasurer for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made & seconded, the Question was put, — "Whether Collectors of Taxes shall be chosen seperate from Constables - - - - - - - Passed in the Affirmative

Voted, that the sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pounds Fine, to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, & shall decline serving

On a Motion Voted, that

Thomas Crafts Esq.
Col Thomas Marshall
Major Paul Reviere

be a Committee to wait on General Washington, & to acquaint him that it is the Desire of the Town, that the Four Pieces of Cannon which are in the Continental Train of Artillery, & belonging to the Town of Boston, may not be carried out of this Colony, if his Excellency should apprehend the general Interest of the Colony will permit their remaining here. ——

Messrs. Nathaniel Greenough
Edward Gray
Jonathan Pollar - - - - - - - - excused

Lindal Pitts
Joseph Sherburne Junr.
Elias Parkman - - - - - - - - - sworn
Henry Prentice - - - - - - - - - excused
Andrew Brimmer
James Foster Condy
Duncan Ingraham junr. - - - - excused
Moses Grant
Benjamin Hammett

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Deacon Benjamin Church
Mr. Daniel Pecker
[39.] Deacon Jonathan Brown
Gyles Harris Esq.
Capt Samuel Downe
Mr. William Lowder

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing. ——

Messs. William Crafts
John Lambert Junr.
Nathaniel Wales
Stephen Wales
Nathan Hancock

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing. ——

Messs. Clement Collins
Abraham Howard
Andrew Symmes
Joseph Buttler
Benjamin Page
Joseph Ford
John Rogers
Thomas Uran
Edward Ranger
John Bulfinch Junr.
Joseph Ballard
James Blake
John Lambert Junr.
Nathan Hancock
Ebenezer Flood
John Champney

were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing ——

Benjamin Austin Esq.

was chose a Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Samuel Bangs
Jacob Holland
Benjamin Bass
[40.] Nathan Green

were chosen Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Adam Colsom
Thomas Edes

were chosen Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing. ——

Messrs. John Owen
Peter Cotta
Manasseh Masters
Benjamin Bernard
Edward Cowell
Israel Cook
Richard Flood
Samuel Prichard
Benjamin Sault
Jacob Williams
Joshua Pico

were chose Cullers of Staves & Hoops for the Year ensuing ——

Messrs. Benjamin Blake
Ralph Morgan
Elijah Searl

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing. ——

Mr. William McFadden

was chose a Hayward for the Year ensuing. ——

Votes for Twelve Constables brought in, the Persons chose into that Office are

Messrs. Stephen Symmes
John Bennet
Thomas Bell
John Coverley
John Wells
Joseph Foye
Samuel Greenleaf
George Thomas
[41.] Thomas Bradford
Thomas Hodgson

Messs.	Jonathan Farnum	Wards No. 1
	William Williams	2
	Thomas Bradford	3
	Joseph Butler	4
	Jonathan Stoddard	5
	Jonathan Rogers	6
	Edward Lad Saunders	7
	Richard Salter	8
	Jerry Russell	9
	Samuel Hodgsden	10
	Henry Quincy	11
	Nathaniel Cobbet	12

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing. ——

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in, and being sealed up in Town Meeting, were delivered to Mr. Constable Bennet, for him to return to the Court of Sessions at their next Meeting.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to May 1t. 10 O'Clock A.M. to meet in this Place ——

May 1t. 10 O'Clock met according to Adjournment at the old Brick Meeting House, & adjourned to the Representatives Chamber.

Met at the Representatives Chamber according to Adjournment. ——

The Proclamation issued by this Goverment, for promoting a Reformation of Manners, read — also an Act of the General Court relative to the Selectmen, taking an Account of the Number of Inhabitants in their respective Towns, conformable to a Resolve of the Continental Congress — whereupon

[42.] Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to make a Representation to the General Court, of the Difficulties which have hitherto prevented their complying with the Order of Court by taking an Account of the Inhabitants of Boston

Voted, that Mr. Ebenezer Storer
Nathaniel Appleton Esq.
John Bradford Esq.
Henry Bromfield Esq.
Mr. Ezekiel Price

be, & they hereby are appointed a Committee to audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, & also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor; & the said Committee are impowered, when they shall audit said Accounts, to allow such of the Overseers, as shall advance Money, for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums, from the Time so advanced, until they shall have audited said Accounts; & they are also desired to report from time to time, a State of the Treasury respecting the Debts & Credits, and on any Matters than they may think proper. ——

Selectmen

chosen Surveyors of the High Ways for the Year ensuing ——

Voted, that the Assessors be & hereby are impowered to sit for Abatement of such Taxes as they shall judge reasonable, on every Wednesday until the last Wednesday in April inclusive, & no longer saving that they be allowed to set the Two last Weeks in November for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons, as had not an Opportunity of Applying in the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which Time they are also allowed & impowered to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died between the said last Wednesday in April & the last Day of November. ——

Deacon Newell having desired the Town to excuse him from serving as a Selectman the Year ensuing, & he having accordingly been excused — it was

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are [43.] Given to Deacon Newell for his faithful Services, as a Selectman a Number of Years past. ——

Messs. John White
John Lucas

were chosen Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing. ——

Col: Joseph Jackson
Col: John Leveret
Mr. John Sweetser

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, & they are desired & impowered to give all needful Directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, &

affixing the Price thereof from time to time, as Occasion shall require; & the said Committee are desired & directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town, to be ground at the new Mills near the Mill Bridge, lately occupied by Mr. George Leonard. ——

Messrs. Thomas Green
Joshua Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing. ——

Votes for a County Register being brought in & sealed up in Town Meeting, were given to Mr. Constable Bennet for him to return to the Court of Sessions at their next Meeting ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that

Capt. Caleb Hopkins
Major Abiel Ruddock
Capt. John Symms
Capt. Edward Procter
Mr. Robert Hitchburne
Mr. Thomas Knox
Mr. Thomas Tileston
Capt. Isaac Phillips
Capt. Jeremiah Stimson
Mr. Adam Colson
Mr. Thomas Bumstead
[44.] Mr. Samuel Service

be a Comittee to go through their several Wards in this Town as soon as may be, & see that such Houses as they may think need cleansing, be sufficiently smoaked & cleansed, as well those that are inhabited, as those that are not; and that they also make a Return to the Selectmen of all Persons that reside in their respective Wards, that are Inhabitants of this Town. ——

Voted, that the Consideration of Schoolmasters Salaries, & all other Salaries & Grants, be referred over to next May Meeting. ——

On a Motion made Voted, that

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
John Brown Esq.
Nathaniel Appleton Esq.
Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
Henry Bromfield Esq.

be a Comittee to prepare an Address to General Washington to be reported at May Meeting

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for three Selectmen, & upon sorting them it appeared, that,

Mr. Ebenezer Storer - - - - - declined
Nathaniel Appleton Esq.
Mr. John White

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for an Assessor & upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. George Broughton Gidney

was chosen an Assessor for the Year ensuing. ——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Comittee of Correspondence, Safety & Inspection, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

The Honble. Samuel Adams Esq.
The Honble. John Hancock Esq.
Joseph Greenleaf Esq. - - - excused
Nathaniel Appleton Esq.
Oliver Wendell Esq.
M^r^. William Dennie - - - - declines
Richard Boynton Esq.
Capt. Willm. Makay
Nathaniel Barber Esq.
John Bradford Esq.
M^r^. William Powell
Caleb Davis Esq.
M^r^. William Cooper
M^r^. John Sweetser
John Brown Esq.
John Pitts Esq.
M^r^. Edward Church
Capt Isaac Phillips
Thomas Crafts Esq.
Capt Edward Procter
Capt John Pulling
Major Paul Reviere
M^r^. Peter Boyer
Major Abiel Ruddock
M^r^. Thos. Hitchburne
Perez Morton Esq.
Benjamin Hitchburne Esq.

were chose a Comittee of Correspondence, Safety & Inspection for the Year ensuing.

On a Motion made Voted, that Nine of the foregoing Comittee be a Quorum. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that all Matters & Things not acted upon in this Meeting be referred over to May Meeting. ——

[**46.**] Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, and hereby are given to the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. Moderator of this Meeting for his good Services. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at the old Brick Meeting House June the 10th. 1776. ——

Precept for the Choice of two Representatives, if the Town shall judge proper, in the Room of the Honble. Willm. Phillips and Benjamin Austin Esq^rs^., lately chosen into the Honble, the Council of this Colony — was read ——

Warrant for calling this Meeting read

The Expediency of making Choice of two Gentlemen at this Meeting for Representatives, in the Room of the Two Gentlemen lately Elected Councillors was considered, & after considerable

Debate had thereon — John Scollay Esq. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen in their Name put the Question Viz^{t}. "Whether the Town will now proceed to the Choice of Two Gentlemen to represent them, in the great & General Assembly now sitting at Watertown agreable to the Precept received — which passed in the Negative

On a Motion made Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next 3 O'Clock P.M. and that the Town be duly notified thereof.——

Monday June 17th. 3 O'Clock P.M. Town met according to Adjournment. ——

[47.] After considerable Debate had, with Respect to the Legality of coming to the Choice of Two Representatives; a Quorum of the Board of Selectmen not being present to regulate the Meeting, by Reason of the Sickness of One, & the Absence of others — a motion was made & seconded — "That this meeting be dissolved — and the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative.——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

A Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at the old Brick Meeting House, on the 24th. of June Anno Domini 1776, 3 O'Clock P.M.

Precept & Warrant for calling this Meeting, read ——

The Town went in to the Consideration of the Expediency of making Choice of Two Gentlemen for Representatives, in the Room of the Honble. William Phillips, & Benjamin Austin Esq^{rs}. & after considerable Debate, a Motion was made for such a Choice, & the Question being accordingly put by John Scollay Esq. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen — it passed in the Negative.——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at The Old Brick Meeting House on Thursday the 23^{d}. Day of May, Anno Domini 1776. ——

Prayer was made by the Rev^{d}. D^{r}. Mather

The Precept & Warrant for calling this Meeting read

Sundry Laws - read

[48.] John Scollay Esq. one of the Selectmen, proposed, in their Name, to the Inhabitants assembled, to proceed to the Choice of One or more Persons, to represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembly, to be held at the Meeting House in Watertown, on Wednesday the 29th. of May current; & in order thereto to consider & ascertain the Number of Gentlemen to be elected: Accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the Choice of Twelve Representatives; the Town apprehending that by a late Act of the General Assembly, they were privileged to send this, or a larger Number; & then it was declared by the Selectmen,

that as Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, & that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock. ——

The Votes being brought in for twelve Representatives the Number of the same were found to be two hundred & seventy two; & upon sorting them it appeared, that the following Gentlemen were chosen, Viz^{t}.

William Cooper
William Philips
John Pitts
John Brown
Benjamin Austin
David Jeffries
Arnold Wells - - - - - - - - - - - excused
William Powell - - - - - - - - - - - D^{o}.
Oliver Wendell
Nathaniel Appleton
D^{r}. Joseph Gardner
Caleb Davis

The Choice of Representatives being over, & declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were desired to withdraw, & bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may [**49.**] Proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, & brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen. ——

Arnold Wells Esq. & M^{r}. William Powell desired to be excused from serving as Representatives the Year ensuing, for Reasons by them respectively offered, & they were accordingly excused.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to this Afternoon 3 O'Clock. ——

3 O'Clock, P. M. met according to Adjournment.

That Article in the Warrant, Viz^{t}. "To consider whether the Town will, in Conformity to a Resolve of the late Honble. House of Representatives for this Colony, advise their Representatives, "That if the Honble. Continental Congress should, for the Safety of the Colonies, declare them *Independent* of the Kingdom of Great Britain, they, the Inhabitants, will solemnly engage, with their Lives and Fortunes to support them in the Measure" — was read & duely Considered, & the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affirmative unanimously ——

That Article in the Warrant Viz^{t}. "To consider what farther Instructions may be necessary for the Representatives that may be chosen," — was read — whereupon

Voted, that M^{r}. William Davis
Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
Perez Morton Esq.
M^{r}. Benjamin Hitchburne
D^{r}. Charles Jarvis

be a Comittee to prepare a Draught of Instructions for the Representatives, chosen, and to make Report as soon as may be. ——

[**50.**] On a Motion made, Voted, that the Vote lately passed,

appointing a Comittee to prepare an Address to General *Washington*, be considered, & said Comittee excused from that Service, the Selectmen having already presented One in the Name of the Town. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Viz^{t}. "Whether any Measures shall be taken for the Borrowing a Sum of Money to answer the present Necessities of the Town" — read — Whereupon Voted, that the Gentlemen, the Selectmen, be a Comittee to consider & report the Sum necessary to be borrowed. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that
Joseph Greenleaff Esq.
Perez Morton Esq.
M^{r}. Benjamin Hitchburne
be a Comittee to consider & report, what is proper to be done by the Town to prevent the Forestalling the Market, & the monopolizing the Wood brought by Water. ——

Adjourned to Fryday next 3 O'Clock. ——

Fryday May 27th. 3 O'Clock P.M. ——

Met according to Adjournment ——

The Comittee appointed to consider & report the Sum of Money it was necessary to borrow — informed the Town, that they were not yet able to make an Estimate of the Money that may be necessary to answer the present Exigencies of the Town ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that David Jeffries Eqs^{r}. Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is impowered & directed to borrow, on Interest, a Sum of Money not exceeding Two thousand Pounds, to answer the present Necessities of the Town. ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for two Representatives in the Room of M^{r}. Wells & M^{r}. Powell, who have resigned and upon sorting them it appeared, that the following Gentlemen were chosen, Viz^{t}. ——

M^{r}. Henry Hill
M^{r}. Allen Otis

[**51.**] Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday Next, 9 O'Clock ——

Monday May 30th 10 O'Clock Town met according to Adjournment ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to ½ past 12 O'Clock ——

Met according to Adjournment ——

Joseph Greenleaff Esq. excused from Serving on the Comittee, of Correspondence Safety & Inspection for Reasons by him offered ——

The Comittee on Instructions reported the following Draught, Viz.^{t},

Instructions to the Representatives of the town of Boston

Gentlemen,

At a time when, in all Probability, the whole United Colonies of America are upon the Verge of a glorious Revolution, & when, consequently, the most important Questions that ever were agitated by the Representative Body of this Colony, touching its internal Police, will demand your Attention; your Constituents think it

necessary to instruct you, in several Matters, what Part to act, that the Path of your Duty may be plain before you.

We have seen the humble Petitions of these Colonies to the *King of Great Britain* repeatedly rejected with Disdain. For the Prayer of Peace he has tendered the Sword ; — for Liberty, Chains ; —for Safety, Death ! He has licenced the Instruments of his hostile Oppressions to rob us of our Property, to burn our Houses, & to spill our Blood — He has invited every barbarous Nation, whom he could hope to influence, to assist him in prosecuting those inhumane Purposes, The Prince, therefore, in Support of whose Crown & Dignity, not many years since, we would most chearfully have expended both Life & Fortune, we are now constrained to consider as the worst of Tyrants : Loyalty to him is *now* Treason to our Country : ——

[**52.**] We have seen his venal Parliament so basely prostituted to his Designs, that they have not hesitated to enforce his arbitrary Requisitions with the most sanguinary Laws. — We have seen the People of Great Britain so lost to every Sense of Virtue & Honor, as to pass over the most pathetic & earnest Appeals to their Justice with an unfeeling Indifference. — The Hopes we placed on their Exertions have long since failed. — In short, we are convinced, that it is the fixt & settled Determination of the King, Ministry, & Parliament of that Island to conquer & subjugate the Colonies, & that the People there have no Disposition to oppose them — A Reconciliation with them appears to us to be as dangerous as it is absurd — A Spirit of Resentment once raised it is not easy to appease : The Recollection of past Injuries will perpetually keep alive the Flame of Jealousy, which will stimulate to new Impositions on the One Side, & consequent Resistance on the other ; & the whole Body politic will be constantly subject to civil Fermentations & Commotions. — We therefore think it absolutely impracticable for these Colonies to be ever again subject to, or dependent upon Great Britian, without endangering the very Existence of the State : Placing however, unbounded Confidence in the Supreme Council of the *Congress*, we are determined to wait, most patiently to wait, 'till their Wisdom shall dictate the Necessity of making a Declaration of Independency — Nor should we have ventured to express our Sentiments upon this Subject, but from the Presumption, that the Congress would chuse to feel themselves supported by the People of each Colony, before they should adopt a Resolution so interesting to the whole. — The Inhabitants of this Town therefore, unanimously instruct & direct you, that, at the Approaching Session of the General Assembly, you use your Endeavors, that the Delegates of this Colony, at the Congress, be advised, that in Case the Congress should think it necessary for the Safety of the United Colonies, to declare themselves independent on Great Britian, the Inhabitants of this Colonly, with their Lives & the Remnant of their Fortunes, will most chearfully support them in the measure. ——

[**53.**] Touching the internal Police of this Colony, it is essentially necessary, in Order to preserve Harmony among ourselves, that the constituent Body be satisfied, that they are fully & fairly

represented — The Right to legislate is originally in every Member of the Comunity; which Right is always exercised of a State: But when the Inhabitants are become numerous, 'tis not only inconvenient, but impracticable *for all* to meet in One Assembly; & hence arose the Necessity & Practice of legislating by a few, freely chosen by the many. — When this Choice is free, & the Representation, equal, 'tis the People's Fault if they are not happy: We therefore entreat you to devise some Means to obtain an *equal Representation* of the People of this Colony in the Legislature. But care should be taken, that the Assembly be not unweildy; for this would be an Approach to the Evil meant to be cured by Representation. The largest Bodies of Men do not always dispatch Business with the greatest Expedition, nor conduct it in the wisest manner ——

It is essential to Liberty that the legislative, judicial & executive Powers of Government be, as nearly as possible, independent of & separate from each other; for where they are united in the same Persons, there will be wanting that natural Check, which is the principal Security against the enacting of arbitrary Laws, and a wanton Exercise of Power in the Execution of them.— It is also of the highest Importance that every Person in a Judiciary Department, employ the greatest Part of his Time & Attention in the Duties of his Office. — We therefore farther instruct you, to procure the making such Law or Laws, as shall make it incompatible for the same Person to hold a Seat in the legislative & executive Departments of Government, at one & the same time: — That shall render the Judges in every Judicatory thro' the Colony, dependent, not on the uncertain Tenure of Caprice or Pleasure, but on an unimpeachable Deportment in the important Duties of their Station, for their Continuance in Office: And to prevent the Multiplicity of Offices in the same Person, that such Salaries be settled upon them, as [54.] Will place them above the Necessity of stooping to any indirect or collateral Means for Subsistence. ——

We wish to avoid a Profusion of the public Monies on the one hand, & the *Danger of sacrificing our Liberties to a Spirit of Parsimony on the other:* — Not doubting of your Zeal & Abilities in the common Cause of our Country, we leave your Discretion to prompt such Exertions, in promoting any military Operations, as the Exigency of our public Affairs may require: And in the same Confidence in your Fervor & Attachment to the public Weal, we readily submit all other Matters of public Moment, that may require your Consideration to your own Wisdom & Discretion. ——

The foregoing Draught of Instructions to our Representatives, having been read & considered, the Question was put — " Whether the same shall be accepted, & given to our Representatives, as their Instructions " — Passed in the Affirmative unanimously. ——

Upon a Motion made, Voted, that the Gentlemen, the Selectmen be directed to wait upon the Comittee of the General Court, for fortifying the Harbor of Boston, & to desire that they would suspend the sinking of the Hulks, untill the Sense of the Town be legally taken relative thereto. ——

On a Motion made — Voted, that this Meeting may be adjourned

to Tuesday next, 9 O'Clock, Forenoon — And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned ——

Tuesday Morning, 9 O'Clock,

Met according to Adjournment ——

The Town took into Consideration the Expediency of having Hulks sunk in this Harbor, for the present, & after a full & fair Debate, the Question was put — vizt. "Whether it be the Sense of the Town, that the Hulks should be sunk at present"? which passed in the Negative, Nem. Con.

Voted, that Samuel Barret Esq.
M^{r}. Benj^{a}. Hitchburne
[55.] Henry Bromfield Esq.
Perez Morton Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee to present, in Behalf of this Town, a Petition to the Great & General Court now sitting, praying that they would reconsider their former Vote for the Sinking of Hulks in this Harbour, so far as that the sinking of them for the present may be Suspended

The Town brought in their Votes for one to serve on the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety, in the Room of Joseph Greenleaff Esq, who has lately resigned — And upon sorting the Votes it appeared, that

M^{r}. Ellis Gray, was chosen one of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety for the Year ensuing. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved, and it was accordingly dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at the Old Brick Meeting House, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, May 27th. Anno Domini 1776. ——

Warrant for Calling this Meeting — read.

The Honble. Thomas Cushing Esqr. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Words, *other Inhabitants*, be deled out of the Warrant for calling the Meeting ——

Votes for a County Register brought in & sealed up in Town Meeting by the Selectmen were deliver'd to their Chairman, John Scollay Esq. to be by him returned to the Court of Sessions. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[56.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at the old Brick Meeting House, on Monday the 26th. Day of August, Anno Domini 1776. ——

Warrant for calling this Meeting — read ——

Benjamin Kent Esq. was chose Moderator of the Meeting by a Hand Vote ——

The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw & bring in their

Votes for two Selectmen, there being but two of those who were chose in March last, who declined serving; & the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

John Greenleaff Esq.
Henry Bromfield Esq.

were unanimously chose Selectmen for the Remainder of the Year

A Motion was made to proceed to the Choice of proper Persons for filling up the Comittee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety — and after considerable Debate, it was moved & carried, that the farther Consideration of this Matter be referred over to Tomorrow 10 O'Clock, A.M. ——

On a Motion made Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock Afternoon, then to meet in the Representatives Chamber. ——

3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for One Overseer of the Poor, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barret Esq.

was unanimously chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Remainder of the Year ——

The Clause in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider what Methods shall be taken for the speedy clearing of the Town from the Small Pox" was read & considered, whereupon it was moved & seconded,

[57.] That a Comittee of Thirty Six Persons be immediately appointed, three for each Ward, whose Business it shall be to repair to every House in their respective Ward, to ask the following questions & take down the Answers in writing ——

Who live in this House, & what is the Name of the Head of the Family?

How many Persons in this House have had the Small Pox both white & black, the natural Way, & by Inoculation, & how many of each have died?

How many Persons from the Country have had the Small Pox in this House, & how many of them came into Town after the 15th. day of July last — their Names & by whom innoculated?

How many are now Sick, & how many that have not had the Small Pox?

How many Persons belonging to this Family are now in the Service?

Is it Continental, or Coloniel?

Is it by Sea, or by Land?

If by Sea, in what Vessel?

Have any of them been hired by other Towns, & what Towns are they?

And the Question being accordingly put ——
Passed in the Affirmative. ——

Voted, that the following Gentlemen be and here by are appointed a Comittee for the Purpose aforesaid — Vist.

Major Newman Greenough Mr. John Lambert Junr. Deacon Jonathan Brown	Wards No 1

	Capt Gyles Harris Mr. Elias Parkman Mr. Edward Grant	Wards N°. 2
	Mr. Ebenezer Howard Mr. Caleb Champney Mr. Nathan[l] Hitchburne	3
[58.]	Francis Shaw Esq. Capt Andrew Syms William Thornburne	4
	Capt Jonathan Cary Mr. George B. Gidney Mr. John Waldo	- - - - 5
	Capt Samuel Barrett Mr. John Jenkins Mr. Samuel Sloan	- - - - 6
	Capt Job Prince Mr. Edward Carnes Mr. John Winnet	- - - - 7
	Capt Benj[a]. Gray Mr. John Colburne Mr. Nicolas Bowes	- - - - 8
	Mr. Ezekiel Price Thomas Daws Esq. Capt Samuel Dashwood	- - - - 9
	Mr. Jeremiah Belknap Capt Jeremiah Stimson Mr. Jon[a]. Amory	- - - - 10
	Capt Jabez Hatch Mr. Hermon Brimmer Mr. Samuel Hewes	- - - - 11
	Capt Ephraim May Mr. Ebenezer Dorr Mr. Thomas Baley	- - - - 12

And it was farther Voted, that the foregoing Comittee be directed to acquaint the Overseers of their respective Wards, of the Time set for the Visitation, & to ask their Company therein, & that the Constables of the Town attend the Comittee in said Walk; & the Comittee are also directed to take the most effectual Methods to cause the Houses in the several Wards, to be well cleansed from the Infection. ——

[59.] That Clause in the Warrant, Viz[t]. "To consider of the Expediency of Erecting a Pound for the Security of Strays, was read & considered, — and the Question being put — "Whether it be expedient, that a Pound be erected at this Time — Passed in the Negative —

The Article in the Warrant, Viz[t]. "Whether any Application shall be made to Authority, to have the *Militia* of the Town Settled; & to determine upon some Method to have the Inhabitants provided, with Arms, according to Law" was read, & after some Debate, the Question was put — and it passed in the Affirmative. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the farther Consideration of the

Article in the Warrant relative to settling the Militia, be referred to Tuesday afternoon 3 O'Clock ——

Adjourned to Tuesday next, 10 O'Clock in the Forenoon

Tuesday the 27th. Day of August, 10 O'Clock A.M. met according to Adjournment. ——

That Clause in the Warrant, viz. "To determine upon some Method to have the Inhabitants provided with Arms &c according to Law," — was read, & considered — Whereupon

Voted, that Mr. Ezekiel Price
Joseph Greenleaff Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Mr. Joseph Banett
Mr. Ellis Gray
Captain Samuel Partridge
Major Thomas Daws

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee, to take this Matter into Consideration, & report their Opinion as soon as may be. ——

The Town took into Consideration the Expediency of filling up the Vacancies in the Comittee of Correspondence & Inspection, & after long Debates, it was moved & seconded & the Question accordingly put — "Whether, according to a Resolve of the Great & General Court of this State, passed the 13th. of February 1776, relative to Commitees of Correspondence, such Persons as have been elected from said Comittee [60.] Representatives, do not by such Election, cease to be Members of said Comittee" — Passed in the Affirmative ——

And upon a Motion made — the Question was put — "Whether it be not the Sense of the Town, that all other Town Officers, are, by the said Resolve, excluded from Serving Members of the Comittee of Correspondence, Inspection &c" — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock in the Afternoon ——

3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment ——

The Town took into Consideration the Expediency of filling up the Comittee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety — and after long Debates — it was moved & seconded, & the Question accordingly put — Whether holding any military Comission in the Continental or Colonial Army is not incompatable with holding any Civil Trust? — Passed in the Affirmative

Adjourned to Wednesday 10 O'Clock in the Forenoon

Wednesday the 28th. of August Instant, 10 O'Clock A.M. met according to Adjournment ——

Messrs. William Sherburne
William Mollineux - - - - - sworn
Nathaniel Jarvis - - - - - - D°.
Martin Becker - - - - - - D°.
Thomas Cartwright

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Remainder of the Year, in the Room of those who are absent, or have resigned

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Six Wardens in the Room of those who are out of Town, or have resigned, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

Capt. Ephraim May - - - - excused
Mr. Nathaniel Bahle
Mr. Joseph Banett - - - - - excused
Mr. Daniel Bell - - - - - - sworn
Mr. William Clough - - - - - - Do.
Mr. Thomas Fleet - - - - - - Do.
Mr. Edward Edes - - - - - excused

[61.] Were chosen Wardens for the Remainder of the Year. ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Viz. "To consider of some effectual Measures to promote Order, & a Reformation of Manners, was read — & after considerable Debate, with respect to the General Nature of the Article, & what was intended — a Motion was made & seconded, That a Committee be appointed to take this Article of the Warrant into Consideration, & report at the intended Adjournment. — This Motion having occasioned considerable Debate, it was the Sense of the Town, that the Question upon said Motion should not then be put ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to To-morrow Morning, 10 O'Clock, A. M. ——

Thursday 10 O'Clock A. M. met according to Adjournment

An Order of Timothy Pickering Esq, Judge of the Court erected by this State, for the Trial & Condemnation of Vessells &c. To choose Twelve Jurymen, for a Court to be held at Boston, the 5th. Day of September next, 10 O'Clock, A. M. was read, whereupon

Messrs. Isaac Pierce
Edward Carnes
Benja. Cobb
Thomas Ivers
Thomas Hitchburne
Joseph Loring
Samuel Dashwood
John Andrews
Edward Tuckerman
Levi Jennings
John Newell
John Welch - - (Jeweller)

[62.] Were drawn out of the Box Jurymen for said Court ——

The Article in the Warrant relative to filling up the Committee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety, again taken up and debated ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock in the Afternoon ——

Thursday 3 O'Clock, P. M. met according to Adjournment

On a Motion, Voted, that the Town will now come to the Choice of Ten Members for the Committee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety, in the Room of those who have resigned, or look'd upon by the Town, as ceasing to be Members of Said Committee, since their being chose Representatives, Vizt.

Messrs. Nathaniel Appleton
Oliver Wendell

William Dennie
Richard Boynton
William Powell
Caleb Davis
William Cooper
John Brown
John Pitts
John Sweetser

It was farther Voted, that the Choice of Ten Members for the Comittee of Correspondence &c. be by seperate Votes. ——

The Votes being brought in accordingly, upon sorting them at the different Times they were brought in, it appeared, that

Mr. James Bowdoin
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Mr. Joshua Blanchard
Mr. William Davis
Capt. Gustavus Fellons
Jonathan Williams Esq.
Capt. Eleazer Johnson
Mr. Hermoin Brimmer
Mr. Bessinger Foster
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr

were chose Members of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety, for the Remainder of the Year. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that

Joseph Greenleaf Esq.
Mr. Stephen Bruce
Col: Henry Jackson

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee, to wait on those Persons, who were Delinquents on the late Muster Day, for their Subscriptions towards a Bounty, for the Encouragement of those who turned out Volunteers for the Nothern or Canada Department on said Day——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 9th. Day of September next, 10 O'Clock A. M. to meet at the Representatives Chamber. ——

Monday the 9th. day of September 10 o'Clock Forenoon—met according to Adjournment. ——

The Town Clerk acquainted the Inhabitants, that agreeable to their Recomendation, signified to the General Assembly, they had appointed

Henry Bromfield Esq. - - - - - - Col:
Thomas Daws Esq. - - - - - - Lt. Col:
Ephraim May - - - - - - - - - Major
William Daws Junr. - - - - 2d. Major

of the Regiment of Militia in the Town of Boston ——

The Venire for the Choice of three Jurymen for the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, & the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Braintree on the first Tuesday of [64.] October next, was read, & the following Persons drawn out of the Box, Jurors for said Court, Vizt. ——

Capt. John Matchet

Mr. John Preston
Mr. Samuel Hewes

The Committee appointed to consider of some Method to have the Inhabitants provided with Fire Arms &c according to Law — Reported,

That £251 ,, 7 ,, 2 Voted by the Honble. House & Council of this State, in Lieu of the Arms belonging to some of the Inhabitants of this Town, be received & put into the Hands of a Comittee, whose Business shall be to purchase, in the best Way & Manner, they can, a Quantity of Muskets for the Use aforesaid, and dispose of them in the following manner, Viz^t. — They shall sell to such of the Inhabitants, as are able to purchase them, One of said Muskets for himself, & as many more as he has Persons in his Family, liable to bear Arms, & that the Money so received, shall be again laid out for Fire Arms, till a sufficient Number shall be purchased for the use of the Town, & that such of the Inhabitants of the Town, as are not able to purchase Arms, shall be furnished in the manner following, Viz^t.

The Comittee shall deposit with the Captains of the several Military Companies in said Town, a Number sufficient to supply such Persons, as are not able to purchase them, to be delivered them in Case of Emergency, & on Muster Days to be returned to said Captains, when they are not in Use. — And the Committee farther reported, that a Part of the Money aforesaid should be laid out in Powder, so that each man may have half a pound at least — which Report having been read & considered — the Question was put — " Whether the same be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative — Also Voted, that

Capt John Marston
Col. Henry Jackson
Capt John Tyler
[65.] Mr. Joseph Banet
Mr. Thomas Hill
Mr. Joseph Webb
Mr. Martin Brimmer

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee to carry the foregoing Report into Execution. ——

A Motion was made, that a Vote passed at the late Meeting, appointing a Comittee to wait on the Delinquents, on the late Muster Day, for their Subscription towards a Bounty for the Encouragement of Volunteers &c be reconsidered, & the said Comittee excused from that Service — and the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative

The Committee appointed to visit the several Wards, & take the State of the Town, with respect to the Small Pox — Reported the State of the several Wards — Whereupon

Voted, that said Comittee be desired to revisit their respective Wards, & cause that such Houses as are unoccupied, and suspected of being infected, be well smoak'd, & cleansed, & that the Bills of Charge arising thereon be handed in to the Selectmen for payment & said Comittee are desired to make strict Enquiry, how the Orders given the Inhabitants for cleansing the Houses that

had been infected, had been complied with — That they also enquire, how the Inhabitants are furnished with small Arms; & in a very particular manner, as to the Number of Persons that are in the public Service by Sea & Land — & how many are now sick with the Small Pox? — Also,

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen, be desired to use their best Endeavors, that the Resolve of the General Court, & the several Laws now in force relative to the Small Pox, be carried into immediate & strict Execution; & that they take the same Measures to rid the Town of Infection, as have been practised to prevent the Small Pox from spreading in the Town. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next, being the 16th. of September Instant 10 o'Clock Forenoon. ——

[66.] Monday the 16th. of September 10 o'Clock A.M. met according to Adjournment

The Committee appointed the 26th. of August last to visit the Houses of the several Wards in this Town, & to take the State of their respective Wards, relative to the Small Pox — the Number of Inhabitants in the Public Service —the Number of Muskets now in Town, in the Hands of the Militia &c — Report as follows, Vizt.

That in 1566 Families 295 white Persons & 9 Blacks had received the Small Pox in the natural Way; of which 29 had died; the Proportion about One in Ten; — that 2873 of the Inhabitants had been innoculated, of which 74 were Blacks — also 1329 Persons from the country & 786 Soldiers — making in the whole 4988, who had been innoculated, 28 of which Number had died; the Proportion of One in one hundred & ninety two — that 20 Persons were now under the Distemper, & 157 yet exposed to it

That 535 of the Inhabitants were now in the Continental Service, 206 in the Colony, & 166 in the Sea Service making in the whole 907 Persons in the Service of their Country — and that 197 Muskets are now in the Hands of the Inhabitants of this Town, exclusive of those belonging to the Independent Company so called. ——

The Town brought in their Votes for four Wardens in the Room of Mr. Colson, Mr. May, Mr. Barrel, & Mr. Edes, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Messrs. Ephraim Copeland
John Welch - - - - - Jeweller
Samuel Payne
Thomas Baley

were chose Wardens for the Remainder of the Year. ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for five Constables— & upon sorting them it appeared, that

[67.] Messrs. John Rogers
Augustus Hail - - - - - s
Benjamin Clark - - - - - s
Thomas Stevenson - - - - s
John Bartlett - - - - - s

were chosen Constables for the Remainder of the Year

A Motion was made that this Meeting be dissolved ——

And it was accordingly dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at the old Brick Meeting House, in Boston, October the 11th. 1776, 9 o'Clock A.M. in Consequence of a Resolve of the Honble. House of Representatives of this State, passed the 17th. of September last. ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read.

Voted, to come to the Choice of a Moderator by a Hand Vote. ——

Renjamin Kent Esq.

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting ——

The Resolve of the Honble. House of Representatives of this State, passed the 17th. of September last Vizt, — " That it be recommended to the Male Inhabitants of each Town in this State, being free & Twenty One Years of Age, or upwards, that assemble as soon as they can in Town Meeting, upon seasonable previous Warning, to be therefor given, according to Law, & that, in such Meeting, they consider & determine whether they will give their Consent, that the present House of Representatives of this State of Massachusetts Bay in New England, together with the Council if they consent, in One Body with the House, & by equal Vote, should consult, agree on, & enact such a Constitution [68.] And Form of Government for this State, as the said House of Representatives & Council aforesaid, on the fullest & most mature Deliberation shall judge will be most conducive to the Safety, Peace, & Happiness of this State, in all after & successive Generations; & if they would direct that the same be made public for the Inspection & Perusal of the Inhabitants, before the Ratification thereof by the Assembly. And that each Town, as soon as may be, after they have passed on the Question aforesaid, cause their Votes, or Resolutions thereon, to be certified into the Office of the Secretary of this State." — was read & considered — whereupon a Motion was made — that the previous Question might be put — Vizt. " Whether the Town will now act upon this Resolve "? and the same being put — Passed in the Affirmative

The said Resolve being again read, after considerable Debate — the Question was put in these Words of the Resolve, which passed in the Negative Unanimously ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that a Committee be appointed to draw up the Reasons the Town had for Voting as they have done, to be certified into the Office of the Secretary of this State. ——

Voted, that Thomas Boylston Esq.
Joseph Greenleaff Esq
Mr. Ellis Gray

be a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid, & to report as soon as may be. ——

Adjourned to 3 o'Clock in the Afternoon ——

3 o'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment. ——

The Committee appointed to draw up and state the Reasons, which operated to the Town's Voting in the Negative — when the Question was put, relative to impowering the House & Council in One Body to form a Constitution of Government to be laid before the People for their Perusal & Inspection — Reported as follows, Vizt.

1t. We apprehend the People have some higher Privileges, than [69.] A bare Inspection & Perusal of the Constitution under which they are to live.

2d. The present General Court were not chosen for the Purpose of forming a Government, which, of Right, originates with the People.

The above Report having been read — after long Debate, it was Voted, that the farther Consideration thereof be referred to the Adjournment.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday the 16th. instant, 10 o'Clock A. M. ——

Wednesday the 16th of October 1776, A.M. met according to Adjournment. ——

The Report of the Committee for stating the Reasons the Town had for not impowering the Honble. House of Representatives to form a Constitution of Government — again read and considered — & a Motion made, Voted, that the Report be recommitted. ——

The Comittee for stating Reasons etc. — Reported as follows, Vizt.

1t. To form Government & establish a Constitution for the present & succeeding Generation, is a Task or Consideration the most important, it extends as much to our *Religious* as *Civil Liberties*, & includes our *All* — It effects every Individual; every Individual therefore ought to be consulting, acting & assisting.

2d. A Subject of such General, & indeed Infinite Concernment ought to be proceeded in with the greatest Caution & maturest Deliberation. — The Means or Channels of Information should all lay open to the People, & not restricted or confined to any particular Assembly however respectable. ——

3d. Precipitancy is to be guarded against time & Opportunity shou'd be taken by the people whose right it is to form Government, to collect the wisest Sentiments on this Subject; not of the present House only, but also of the Council, & every other Society, or Member of the State, that would favor the Public with their Sentiments, [70.] In Order that they may possess themselves of such Principles, & wise Maxims sounded on the best Precedents, & thereby be enabled to form a judicious & happy Constitution of Government.

The foregoing Report having been read & considered the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted"? Passed in the Affirmative Unanimously.

Voted, that the Town Clerk be directed to cause the foregoing Votes, or Resolutions, relative to the Resolve of the House of Representatives to be certified into the Office of the Secretary of this State.

Adjourned to 3 o'Clock in the Afternoon ——

3 o'Clock afternoon, met according to Adjournment

A Motion made relative forming a new Government, was the Subject Matter of a long Debate, but the Motion was finally withdrawn ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved, and it was accordingly dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at the Old Brick Meeting House 11th. of October 1776, — 10 o'Clock A.M. ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting — read ——

Voted to come to the Choice of a Moderator by a Hand Vote

Benjamin Kent Esq.

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 4 o'Clock P.M.

4 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be farther adjourned to Wednesday, 16th. day of October instant, 10 o'Clock before Noon ——

[71.] And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned. ——

Wednesday the 16th. of October 11 O'Clock — forenoon, met according to Adjournment.——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 4 O'Clock after Noon. ——

4 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment

The Committee appointed at a late Meeting to prepare a By-Law, relative to forestalling of Wood and other Necessaries of Life — Report a By-Law for preventing of those Evils, & the same having been read & considered, the Question was put, Vizt. Whether it shall be accepted as a By-Law of this Town — Passed in the Negative ——

That Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To consider the Petition of a Number of the Inhabitants relative to several Grievances arising from the Forestalling of Wood, Provisions and other Necessaries of Life" — was read, & after considerable Debate,

Voted, that Col. Thomas Daws
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Col. Nathaniel Barber
Mr. Ellis Gray
Capt. Williams
Deacon Jonathan Mason
Mr. Samuel Whitwell
Mr. John Reed ——

be a Comittee to take this Matter into Consideration, & report as soon as may be, what they apprehend will be for the Interest of the Town to be done thereon ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday, next the 23d. of October instant, 10 o'Clock, to receive the Report of the forenamed Committee, & to act upon other Articles of the Warrant ——

Wednesday October 23d. 1776, met according to Adjournment ——

[72.] Benjamin Kent Esq. Moderator of this Meeting being on a Journey,

Mr. Ezekiel Price

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting Pro. Tem. ——

The Comittee appointed to consider the Petition relative to sev-

eral Grievances arising from the forestalling of Wood & other Necessaries of Life, informed the Town, that they were not ready to make Report

On a Motion made, Voted, that all Matters & things mentioned in the Warrant for calling this Meeting, & which remain unfinished, be referred over to the next Town Meeting, then to be taken up & acted upon. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved, and it was accordingly dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at the Old Brick Meeting House, 30th. Day of October, 10 o'Clock A.M. Anno Domini 1776 ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read ——

The Town brought in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. Jonathan Mason

was chosen Moderator of the Meeting. ——

The Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To consider and determine what Measures shall be taken, respecting the Poor of the Town of Boston, who, by a late Resolve of the General Court, are to be removed from Salem & elsewhere, to this Town"? — was read — whereupon considerable Debate arose, & a Motion was made, "That the Town Treasurer be impowered to borrow a Sum of Money for the Use of the Overseers" [**73.**] "It was objected to, as not being inserted in the Warrant" — and a Doubt arising, Whether the Town was legally warned — It was moved & Voted that this Meeting be dissolved, & the Meeting was accordingly dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled, at the Old Brick Meeting House, November the 8th. 1776. ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read. ——

The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw & bring in their Votes for a Moderator, & the Votes being accordingly brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

Mr. Jonathan Mason

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To determine what Measures shall be taken, respecting the Poor of Boston, & the Sum of Money that shall be raised for their Support" — was read — & after considerable Debate, it was moved & Voted, that the farther Consideration thereof be referred to 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider & estimate what Measures shall be taken, to estimate the Damages the Town has sustained since the Port Bill took Place" — was read — & after long Debate, Voted, that the farther Consideration be referred to the Afternoon. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjourment

The Town brought in their Votes for two Overseers of the Poor, & upon sorting them, it appeared, that

Isaac Smith Esq.
Mr. Edward Payne

were chose Overseers of the Poor the Year ensuing. ——

[74.] The Town again took into Consideration the Article in the Warrant relative to the Poor of Boston; & a Vote in writing was prepared, which was committed to Mr. Otis for Amendment

The Town again entered upon the Consideration of that Article in the Warrant relative to estimating the Damages the Town has sustained since the passing the Port Bill — Whereupon

Voted, that Col: Daws
Mr. Joseph Barrel
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Col: Bromfield
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr
Col: Barber
Capt Procter

be a Comittee to consider & report a List of suitable Persons to be employed by the Town in Estimating the Damages sustained by them since the Port Bill took place. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to John Barret & John Leverett Esqrs. for their faithful Services, as Overseers of the Poor a Number of Years past. ——

Whereas the General Assembly of this State, by their Resolve of the 17th. of October last, determined that the Inhabitants of Boston disposed in the several Towns in this State, & supported at the public Expence, be returned to the Town, on or before the 1t. of December next, & maintain'd at the Expence of the Town; & the Selectmen of Salem have informed the Overseers of the Poor, that they intend to send the poor, formerly belonging to the Alms House, & now in the Hospital at Salem, to this Town by Water, on the 12h. or 13h. of this Month, their being at this Time no Money in the Treasury, nor any Tax made, that, in the present distressed State of the Town, can possibly be collected for the Repairs of the Almshouse, & the Support of said poor — Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is directed & impowered to borrow from [75.] Time to time such Sums of Money, as he may have Occasion for, to pay the Draughts of the Overseers of the Poor, for the Support of said Poor, to the Amount of five thousand Pounds, & to give his Note or Notes for the same on Interest. ——

That Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To appoint a Comittee to examine into the State of the Town Treasury, and the Annual Expences of the Town" — was read — Whereupon

Voted, that Mr. Joseph Barrel
Col: Daws
Mr. Edward Payne
Mr. Banet
Mr. Storer

be a Comitee for the Purpose aforesaid, & to report as soon as may be ——

That Article in the Warrant, Viz^{t}. "To determine what Number of Schools shall be opened, & the Salaries that shall be allowed the Masters & their Ushers" — was read & considered — whereupon,

Voted, that the School in Queen Street, of which M^{r}. John Carter is Master, be immediately opened for the Accommodation of the Youth in that part of the Town. ——

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be, and hereby are directed to appoint an Usher for one or all the Schools, if they shall apprehend that Assistance is wanted. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred & Twenty pounds be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. Samuel Hunt, for his Salary, as Master of the South Grammar School for the Remainder of the Year, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence from the Time the School was opened. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty Pounds, be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. Samuel Hunt, in Additiom to his Salary of £120 — in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds [**76.**] Be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. Samuel Holbrook, for his Salary, as Master of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, the same to be paid quarterly as it shall become due, & to commence from the Time the School was opened. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. Samuel Holbrook, in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. James Tileston for his Salary, as Master of the North Writing School the Year ensuing, the same to be paid quarterly, as shall become due, & to commence from the time the School was opened.

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. James Tiletson, in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. James Carter for his Salary, as Master of the Wrighting School in Queen Street for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence from the time the School was opened. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^{r}. James Carter, in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 11th. of November instant, 10 O'Clock Forenoon. ——

Monday November 11th. 10 O'Clook, forenoon — met according to Adjournment. ——

The Comittee appointed to consider the Petition of a Number of the Inhabitants relative to several Grievances arising from the forestalling of Wood, Provisions & other Necessaries of Life" —

beg Leave to recommend, that the Laws relative to Forestallers &c. be immediately put into Execution — that Measurers of Wood be [77.] Immediately appointed, & that every Coaster, that receives a Pass from the Office, have given him the Law relative to Wood — that the Persons employed in Cutting Wood this Winter may not plead Ignorance — That Scales & Weights be fixt in the Market & the Square for weighing small Draughts, to prevent the Iniquity & Damage arising from weighing with Steelyards — That the Inhabitants be as sparing as possible in *purchasing* of Butter & such other Articles as bear a high Price; & that all they purchase be by Weight & Measure; as many Persons that have lately purchased Indian Meal in Bags for two Bushels, on Measuring have found considerable wanting — so in Butter, oftentimes there has not been more than fourteen or fifteen Ounces to the Pound. ——

The Comittee forbear mentioning at present the Names of some Persons hinted to them, who, by engrossing and Forestalling, not only the Necessaries of Life, but many other Articles, are greatly injuring the Town, hoping they will desist from such Practices, so exceedingly prejudicial to the Community, or they must expect to be held up as unworthy the Name of Friends to their Country. ——

Thomas Daws p. Order —

The foregoing Report having been read & considered — the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative

The Comittee appointed to prepare a List of suitable Persons to be employed by the Town, for collecting an Account of the Damages sustained since the Boston Port Bill, having reported, it was

Voted, that Sixty Persons be chosen, as a Committee Five for each Ward, for the Service aforesaid — and the following Persons were appointed, Viz^{t}.

Capt. Fortesque Vernon	
Capt Caleb Hopkins	
M^{r}. Thomas Adams	Wards
M^{r}. Nathaniel Heath	N°. 1.
M^{r}. Zepheniah Hart	
M^{r}. Benjamin Burt	
M^{r}. Edward Grant	
M^{r}. John Lambert jun^{r}.	N°. 2
M^{r}. Joseph Clark	
M^{r}. John Brown	
Francis Shaw Esq.	
Capt Daniel Martin	
M^{r}. Joseph Eustis	3.
M^{r}. John Wells	
M^{r}. Nathaniel Hitchburne	
Nathaniel Barber Esq.	
M^{r}. Thomas Greenough	
M^{r}. Gibbins Sharp	4
M^{r}. Thomas Crafts jun^{r}.	
M^{r}. Timothy Atkins	

	Capt William Makay Mr. Edward Gray Mr. Jonathan Stoddard Mr. Asa Stoddard Mr. Thomas Hitchburne	Wards N°. 5
	Joseph Greenleaff Esq. Henry Jackson Esq. Capt Samuel Barrett Capt William Bell Mr. Benja. Sumner Senr.	6
	Capt Downe Cheever Mr. Timothy Newell Capt Job Prince Mr. William Homer Mr. William Crafts	7
	Mr. John Lowell Mr. Joseph Hall Capt John Bradford Mr. Benja. Eustis Capt Charles Williams	8.
[79.]	Mr. Thomas Russell Mr. Bartholw. Kneeland Capt William Fleet Mr. John Hudson Mr. Thomas Parker	9
	Capt Samuel Dogget Mr John Tileston Mr. Daniel Ingersol Mr. Thomas Tileston Mr. Henry Tompson	- - - - - - - 10
	Mr. Benjamin Church Mr. Martin Brimmer Capt Samuel Payne Mr. John Preston Mr. Richd. Honeywell	- - - - - - - 11
	Arnold Wells Esq Mr. William Powell Capt Gustavus Fellows Mr. Thomas Baley Mr. John Lucas	- - - - - - - 12

On a Motion made, Voted, that

Col. Thomas Daws
Mr. Edward Payne
Mr. Joseph Barrell
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Mr. Henderson Inches

Be a Comittee to draught & report to the Town a sutable Plan of procedure for the Comittee appointed to collect Accounts of the Damages sustain'd since the Port Bill took place. ——

A Motion made for re-considering the Vote for accepting the Report of the Comittee relative to Forestalling the Market — after long Debate the Motion was withdrawn. ——

[80.] Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock Afternoon.

3 O'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment. ——

On a Motion made, Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 18th. instant, 10 O'Clock — forenoon ——

Monday November the 18th. 10 O'Clock Before Noon — Met according to Adjournment. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to fill up any Vacancy that may happen in the Committee chosen out of the several Wards, for the Purpose of Collecting an Acct. of the Damages the Town has sustained since the Port Bill. ——

The Town bro't in their Votes for an Overseer of the Poor, in the Room of Mr. Daniel Waldo, who has not returned from the Country, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. Nathaniel Barrett

was unanimously chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the present Year. ——

On a motion made, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Mr. Daniel Waldo for his faithful Services, as an Overseer of the Poor for a Number of Years past

The Comittee appointed to consider & report some proper Method of ascertaining the Losses & Damages occasioned by by the Army & Navy stationed in this Town & Harbour, having attended that Business, & prepared a List of such Articles as appear to them to have been destroyed, damaged or taken from the Inhabitants which they herewith present for the Consideration of the Town — They likewise propose that Hand Bills be sent to the Inhabitants informing them of the particular contain'd in the Schedule, to be delivered the Comittee for each ward, & that the Sufferers be therein desired to have a particular Account of their Losses ready to delivered the Comittee, on, or before the 10th. Day of December next. ——

[81.] In this Schedule, no Acct. is proposed to be taken of the Losses sustained by the Port Bill, as no just estimate can be made of the loss of the Trade, & the Difficulties in carrying it on, which so great, as to induce some Merchants to quit Business & sell their Vessels at a considerable Loss. ——

The General Assembly in their Resolve, having directed their Comittee to extend their Enquires as far back as the taking place of the Port Bill, it will be proper to take Notice of such Facts, as may be ascertained relating to the Difficulties occasioned by this cruel & barbarous Act, Vizt. ——

The Number of Vessels in the Harbor, when Advice was received of said Bill being passed, many of which went to Sea not fully loaded, others went to Salem, Plymouth and other Parts some in Ballast, & others to compleat their Loading part of which was carted from hence.

The Number & Burthen of Vessels belonging to this Town, that entered & cleared at the Port of Salem, the quantity of Goods imported in said Vessels, & the Expence of carting them from thence. ——

The expence of unloading & reloading the Vessels loaded with

Victuals & Fruit, that were obliged to call at Marblehead, & be there examined, & the Expence of Carriers, Masters & Seamen travelling to & from the Harbor, where their Vessels were loading & unloading. ——

There are Charges that have been paid by Owners of Vessels, & if the bare Carting the Goods imported & exported, amount to so considerable a Sum, as will appear by this Account, the Assembly may be convinced that the Inhabitants of this Town were very great Sufferers by that Act. — By Order of the Comittee

THOMAS DAWS Chairman

The Hand Bill reported is as follows, Viz^{t}.

The Honble. Continental Congress, & the General Asembly of this State, having resolved, that a just & well [82.] Authenticated Account of Hostilities committed by the ministerial Troops & Navy in America, since March 1775, be collected with proper Evidence of the Truth of the Facts related; the Number and Value of the Buildings destroyed by them, also the Number & Value of the Vessels, inward & outward bound, which have been seized by them, as near as can be ascertained; also the Stock taken by them from the different Parts of the Continent. ——

The Inhabitants of the Town of Boston are hereby notified, that Committees are appointed for each Ward, to ascertain the Value of the Buildings wholly destroyed, & the Expence of repairing such as were partly destroyed; also to receive from such Persons as have been Sufferers a particular Account in Writing, & on Oath, of the Losses and Damages they have suffered, either in Merchandize, Furniture, Plate, Money, or other Personal Estate: And those who have been Sufferers by the Army or Navy, are desired to get their Accounts, ready for the Comittees, on or before the 10th. of December next, when the Committees will attend this Business, & call upon the Inhabitants for said Accounts. And the Inhabitants are farther informed, that a Schedule is delivered to said Comittees, containing the Method in which they are to proceed in ascertaining the same: The Heads of each Column being as follows ——

Column 1^{t}. Names of the Sufferers, & of the Public Buildings destroyed, or otherwise damaged. ——

Col. 2^{d}. Number & Value of dwelling Houses & other Buildings —— wholly destroyed. ——

Col. 3^{d}. Expence of repairing Dwelling Houses, Wharves & other Buildings partly destroyed. ——

Col. 4th. Expence of repairing the Meeting houses, & other public Buildings, made Use of as Barracks.

Col. 5. Damages sustained in Lands on the Neck, Common, and where their Works were erected, & the Fences in every part of the Town.

Col. 6. Value of Household Furniture destroyed, damaged, or carried away by the Officers & others as appears by attested Accounts, left with the Committee

[83.] Col. 7th. Number & Value of Vessels & Cargoes, seized and taken. ——

Col. 8th. Value of Stock, Hay, Grain, Houses, and other Build-

ings on the Islands & in the Harbours, taken, destroyed or damaged. ——

Col. 9th. Value of Merchandize & other Effects taken from the Inhabitants, as P Account of Particulars. ——

Col. 10th. Value of Salt thrown into the Sea, Liquors stove and other Articles destroyed ——

Col: 11th: Yearly Rent of Dwelling Houses & other Buildings occupied by the Officers, or improved as Barracks, some of which were contracted for, & others taken by Force, & no Rent paid for either.

Col: 12th: Yearly Rent of Houses occupied by the Inhabitants removed out of Town, many of which still remain empty, as the Occupiers are not returned. ——

Col: 13th; Number & Value of Arms taken from the Inhabitants lodged in the State House, & destroyed by General Howe's Order.

Col: 14th: Value of Cannon & Stores taken out of the Batteries, or destroyed, & the Town's Stock of Powder. ——

Col: 15th: Charges of transporting Furniture & Families into the Country & back again to Boston. ——

Col: 16th: Sum total of the Losses & Damages

The foregoing Report having been read & considered — The Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

On a Motion made, that a seperate Comittee may be chosen for the special Purpose of Estimating the Damages the Town has sustained by the Boston Port Bill, so called.

Voted, that Col: Daws
Mr. Edward Payne
Mr Joseph Barrel
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Mr. Henderson Inches

[84.] Be, & hereby are appointed a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday the 27th of November instant, 10 O'Clock Forenoon, and the Meeting was accordingly adjourned. ——

Wednesday November 27th. 1776. 10, O'Clock A.M. Met according to Adjournment. ——

The Comittee appointed to examine the State of the Town Treasury, & the Treasurer's Accounts, Report — That they have attended that Service & find the Accounts right cast & well vouched. — The Treasurer charges himself with sundry Rents, Fines & other Incomes of the Town, to the Amount of £7122 ,, 0 ,, 2¾ including Ballance of old Accounts; & discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors, amounting to — £795 ,, 18 ,, 2 — by Draughts from the Selectmen of £4421 ,, 17 ,, 7½ of which he has paid only £3910 ,, 14 ,, 5¾ — by Draughts from the Overseers of the Poor £3458 ,, 11 ,, 2 — the Charges of the Almshouses of which he has paid only £2628 ,, 18 ,, 5 — By Sundry Sums of Interest paid £167 ,, 11 ,, 7 — The Comittee find the above Sums, including £1211 ,, 8 ,, 10½ (bad Debts ordered by the Town to be cancelled) amount to

£10055 ,, 7 ,, 5 — which leaves a Ballance against the Town £2933 ,, 7 ,, 2¼. ——

The Committee find the State by the Books in March 1775, but they apprehend the true State at the present Day, without taking into the Account a Number of nominal Debts of no Value, is thus —

Due to sundry Persons, as p. Notes — on Interest	£6208	10	11½
Interest due to the present day — at least	800	0	0
Unpaid on the Selectmen & Overseers draughts £1140 ,, 9 ,, 6 of which is none on Interest	1915	2	0¼
Cash borrowed in Part of the £2000 — Voted in May last	821	14	8
The whole Debts now due	£9745	7	7¾
[85.] There appears to come to the Credit the following sundry Debts on the Books to the Amount of £1489 ,, 19 ,, 9 which the Committee suppose will never neat the Town above	£230	:	:
Due from Collectors of Taxes — Vizt.			
From Abraham Savage	£523		
Edward Hollyday	492		
Benjamin Gray	345		
Benjamin Henderson	169		
	£1529		
Deduct due to them for Premiums	400		
The Town will judge what Part of this is likely to be collected & when	£1129		
Due from the Estate of John Ruddock Esq. on Account of Lotteries	204	13	8¾
	£1563	13	8¾

Allowing all the above to be good, which the Committee by no means think the Case, then will be a Ballance against the Town of £8181 ,, 13 ,, 11

And the Vote for the Support of the Poor	5000	-	-
The current Charges for the present Year — of Schools, Town Watch &c &c will be	2500	-	-
Total Debt	£15681	13	11

By the above it appears, when the Sums already voted, are borrowed & Provisions made for the present Year, the Town will be in Debt to the amazing Sum of £15681 ,, 13 ,, 11 — which there appears no Fund to discharge ——

The Committee beg leave to suggest to the Town, whether it would not be best, in future, that the Money granted for each particular Year, should be invariably applied to defray the Expenses of that Year only, & that it be made a Rule, that the first Draughts should be first paid;

[86.] The Committee are of Opinion, that a Regulation of this kind, would be for the Credit of the Town, & encourage the Hearts of the Officers of the Town, as every Man then be assured

of his Money in his Turn, without any needless Attendance, & the Punctuality would prevent those *useful* Servants of the Town, the *Schoolmasters*, from appearing, by their Heirs, as Creditors of the Town. ——

The Committee would farther suggest, in Order to prevent a List of Abatements of Taxes appearing yearly in the Treasurer's Accounts, that the Assessors be directed, immediately after they have taken Accounts in March of the Polls & Rateable Estates, & have estimated the same in order for an Assessment to serve the Inhabitants with an Account of what they are to be rated for, & at what the same is valued; this will give Opportunity for each Person, if overvalued, to apply to the Assessors before the Tax comes out, & when the Abatements are made in the Valuations, & the Tax is compleated, that the Assessors assert in the Tax Bill, how much in the Pound is rated; & the List of all the rateable Estates of any Person, be left with the Selectmen, or Town Treasurer, & upon for the Inspection of every one ——

All which is humbly submitted
By Order of the Committee
Joseph Barrel, Chairman

N.B. Besides the foregoing Charge of £2500 - - - Charges of Salary Men for the present Year, it has been usual for the Selectmen's - - Draughts for other contingent Charges to amount to £2000 — which ought to be added to the present Years Expence, as it will be called for & will make the Town's Debt near *Eighteen Thousand Pounds*.

The foregoing Report was read, & after considerable Debate had thereon ——

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be directed to collect from the several Debtors to the Town, whatever Sums of Money may be due from them respectively. ——

Voted, that the Representatives of this Town, be, & they hereby are instructed, to use their Influence in the Gen[l]. Assembly of this State, that a new Valuation be taken. ——

[87.] Voted, that the farther Consideration of the Report of the Committee on the State of the Treasury, be referred to next Town Meeting, & all other Matters not acted upon in this Meeting ——

The Town brought in their Votes for one Overseer of the Poor, in the Room of M[r]. Barrel, who declines accepting that Trust; and upon sorting the Votes, it appeared, that

M[r]. Peter Boyer

was unanimously chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the remainder of the Year. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved, and it was accordingly dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified and legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, Thursday, the 6th. day of February, A.D. 1777. 10 O'Clock Forenoon

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Moderator, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. Jonathan Mason

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting —

The Article in the Warrant, Viz^{t}. "To consider & determine upon the most effectual Measures to have the Act of the General Court to prevent Monopolies & Oppression, & for regulating the Prices of the Necessaries of Life & sundry Goods, strictly complied with, not only from the Laws & Authority of this State, but as absolutely necessary for the effectual Security of the essential Rights & Liberties of *America*" was read & considered — whereupon a Motion was made — That a Comittee of Thirty Six Persons be chosen out of the several Wards, of such as are not in Trade, to aid & assist the Selectmen, & Comittees of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety, by Information, or other legal Ways, in carrying into Execution the late Act to prevent Monopolies, **[88.]** &c. agreable to the true Intent & Meaning of said Act — and the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative. — also

Voted, that Mr. Ezekiel Price
Mr. Joseph Russell
Mr. Samuel Barret
Mr. Thomas Walley
Mr. John Ballard

be a Comittee to consider & report, at 3 O'Clock P.M. for the Acceptance of the Town, a Number of suitable Persons for the aforesaid Committee. ——

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock afternoon

3 o'Clock P M. met according to Adjournment

The Comittee to report the Names of three Persons in the several Wards, to serve on the foregoing Comittee — Reported accordingly — Whereupon,

Voted, that Wards N°. 1. Capt. Thomas Adams, John R. Sigoney, Mr. Samuel Burril
2. Messrs. Gyles Harris, Elias Parkman, William Page
3. Messrs. Joshua Pico, Thomas Kimble, Thomas Christie
4. Messrs. Francis Shaw Esq., John Prince
5. Messrs. George B. Gedney, Thomas Sherburne Junr., Oliver Greenleaff
6. Messrs. Joseph Hall, Willm. Frobisher, Samuel Sloan
[89.] Wards N°. 7. Messrs. Isaac Peirce, Joseph Callender, Ephraim Copeland

8. Messrs. Jeremiah Belknap
Nathaniel Noyes
Russel Sturgis

9. Messrs. William Sutton
Samuel Bass
Francis Archibald

10. Messrs. Thomas Uran
Job Wheelwright
Benja. Cudworth Senr.

11. Messrs. Obadiah Curtis
James Tompson - - - - (Distiller)
William Fallas

12. Messrs. Capt Benjamin Cobb
John Bradford junr.
William Lowder

be & hereby are appointed a Comittee, to aid & assist the Selectmen & Comittee of Correspondence &c. by Information, or other legal Ways, in carrying into Execution the late Act of this State to prevent Monoplies &c. agreable to the true Intent & meaning thereof ——

On a Motion made, Voted, unanimously, that a Comittee be now chosen, to consider & report, at the Adjournment, what they judge necessary for the Town to do, in order to obtain a sufficient Supply of Provisions of all Kinds, & to promote the salutary Intensions of the late Act, to prevent Monoplies, &c.

Voted that Messrs. John Ballard
Thomas Walley
Edward Green
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Nathaniel Appleton
Joseph Russell
John Sweetser

[90.] Be, & hereby are appointed a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next, 10 O'Clock A.M.

Wednesday February 12th. 1777, 10 O'Clock Forenoon

Met according to Adjournment. ——

The Comittee "To consider what they judge necessary for the Town to do, in Order to obtain a sufficient Supply of Provisions of all Kinds, & to promote the salutary Intention of the late Act to prevent Monoplies, &c. —Reported— and said Report having been read — Voted, that the Paragraph in said Report which relates to the procuring Flour for the Town, be recommitted — Voted, that Mr. Edward Payne, Deacon Davis & Mr. Samuel Barret be added to the above Committee.

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 o'Clock P.M. Town met according to Adjournment

The Comittee to whom was referred the Paragraph relative to Flour, — Reported — And after the same was read and considered, Voted, that the farther Consideration thereof be referred to the Adjournment. ——

Moved, that a Comittee be appointed, to make Enquiry, & ascertain, as near as may be, the Quantity of Flour now in Town & what is expected soon by Water; as also to confer with some Merchants relative to the Terms on which they will import Provisions abroad for the use of the Inhabitants — to report at the Adjournment — And the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that John Ballard
Thomas Walley
Edward Green
Benj[a]. Kent Esq.
Nathan[l]. Appleton Esq.
Joseph Russell
John Sweetser
Edward Payne
[91.] Deacon Davis
Samuel Barnet Esq.

be a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid. ——

The Report of the Committee relative to Monoplies, &c. was read & passed, Paragraph by Paragraph, & is as follows, Viz[t].

The Committee appointed on Thursday the 6th. current, to consider what they judge necessary for the Town to do, in order to obtain a sufficient Supply of Provisions of all Kinds, & to promote the salutary Intention of the late Act to prevent Monoplies &c. beg leave to report ——

That upon the strictest Enquiry we find, that the present great Scarcity of Provisions in the Town, arises principally from a Numner of Engrossers, who have monoplized great Quantities of Rum, Sugar, Molasses, Cotton-Wool, Coffee, Cocoa, &c. & most Kinds of Cloathing, & now refuse to sell (as your Comittee are informed) at the Prices affixt by the late Act of the General Court, by which means the People from the Country complain that they cannot get a necessary Supply of those Articles. ——

We would not be understood to charge all Traders in Town with acting so base a Part, as several worthy Inhabitants in Trade are selling their Articles agreeable to the Prices stipulated in the late Act; &, we have no Doubt, if others in Trade would follow their laudable Example, & the Stores in General were open, & Goods sold agreeable to said Prices, we should soon have as full a Supply of Provisions from the Country, as is usual at this Season of the Year. ——

It is therefore most earnestly recommended to all the Inhabitants of this Town, that have any Articles more then they want for their Consumption, that they would immediately comply with the Act, by selling them agreeable to the Prices fixt therein, as they request the Peace of the Town, the Distresses of the poor, fixing our *Medium* to a certain Value, & strengthening the Hands of Government, at this *Critical & Important* Day. ——

[92.] Your Comittee likewise of Opinion, that it would be proper for the Town to encourage a Number of Fishermen in Addition to those already in that Business, that the Town may be more fully supplied with Fresh Fish

We beg leave farther to recommend to the Town, that the Comittee of Correspondence be desired to write to the Committees of Correspondence in the neighbouring Towns, informing them of what this Town has done, & desiring them to use their Endeavors, to prevent any Misunderstanding by false Reports spread by the Tory Party, & to assure them, that the Inhabitants will exert themselves to the utmost, that the People in the Country Towns shall be supplied with Articles, agreable to the Prices affixt in the late Act of this State for preventing Monopolies, &c.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Fryday next, 3 O'Clock P. M. ———

Fryday the 14th of February, 3 O'Clock P. M. Met according to Adjournment ——

The Comittee appointed "to make Enquiry, and to ascertain as near as may be, the Quantity of Flour now in Town & what is expected soon by Water; as also to confer with some Merchants relative to the Terms, on which they will import Flour from abroad, for the Use of the Inhabitants"—Report,—That on the strictest Enquiry & fullest Information, they find in the Posession of Col: Doane between two & three hundred Barrels — of Mr. Thomas Boylston two hundred — & of the several Bakers upwards of an hundred, the whole Quantity not exceeding Six Hundred ——

That they have the pleasure to be informed, that several Gentlemen have ordered, & expect the several Quantities hereafter mentioned —Vizt.

	Mr. William Foster - - - - - - -	700 bbls
	Cap Hains - - - - - - - - - -	600
	Mr. Smith - - - - - . - - -	400
[93.]	Capt Prince - - - - - - - - -	600 bbls
	Messs. Pitts & Call - - - - - -	500
	Mr. Winthrop - - - - - - - -	900 making

in the whole Three Thousand Seven Hundred ——

That Mr. Powell has assured them, that he will send a Vessel, which he has ready, for six hundred bbls, as soon as he can be advised of the Withdraw of certain British Ships of War; now infesting the River & Capes of Delaware. — That Mr. Jepson has engaged to send for Six Hundred & Fifty. — These, with what are now on hand, will amount to five thousand nine hundred Barrels.

Your Comittee farther report, that upon freely conversing with several Importers of that Article, it is their Opinion that Gentlemen may be found, who will undertake to import for the Use of the Inhabitants, the whole Quantity which may be necessary to make up the Deficiency arising from Captures of those expected, & the Inadiquacy of the Supply (should even the whole already ordered arrive) on being assured of a reasonable Profit on the same. ——

The foregoing Report having been read & considered — and the Question being put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative

Mr. Lindal Pitts attended by Desire of the Inhabitants, and

gave the Town Satisfaction, as to the Quantity of Flour by him imported & what remained unsold ——

Mr. Boylston attended, & informed the Town that he did not know but he might have near 300 Barrels of Flour at this Market

Voted, that Messs. John Ballard
Thomas Walley
Edward Green
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Nathaniel Appleton Esq.
Mr. Joseph Russell
Mr. John Sweetser
Mr. Edward Payne
[94.] Caleb Davis Esq.
Samuel Barrett Esq

be a Comittee to confer with the Importers of Flour relative to the Terms, on which they will import a Quantity of that Article, for the Use of the Inhabitants, & to report at the Adjournment. ——

Adjourned to Monday next the 17th. of February, 10 O'Clock Forenoon. ——

The Comittee appointed on the 14th. Instant, To confer with the Importers of Flour, relative to the Terms on which they will import a Quantity of that Article for the Use of the Inhabitants — Reported & after considerable Debate had thereon,— A motion was made, & the Question accordingly put — That said Report be withdrawn — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

On a Motion made — Voted, that a Comittee be appointed to apply to all those Persons in this Town, who are possessed of Flour, West India, or other Goods, enumerated in the Act against Monopoly & Oppression, & require of them a direct Answer to the following Question — *Will you take the Price set by this State?* — And report the Names & Answers of said Persons, that the same may be made Public in the News Papers — to shew the Readiness of the Inhabitants of this Town to comply with said Acts — Also

Voted, that the Comittee appointed for the several Wards to aid the Selectmen & Comittee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety, by Information or other legal Ways, be a Comittee for the Purpose aforesaid. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 o'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment

On a Motion made, Voted, that a Comittee be appointed to consider & report what they judge will be the most suitable Methods to obtain a Supply of Provisions for the Inhabitants of this Town

Voted, that Messrs. Shubael Hewes
Mr. John Ballard
[95.] Capt Dalton
Henry Williams
Josiah Torrey
Joseph Greenleaff Esq.
Mr. Adam Colson

be a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid. ——

On a Motion made, the Question was put, Viz^{t}. — Whether the Town will encourage such Inhabitants with their Custom, as shall set up Butchers Stalls in this Town, for the Supply of the Inhabitants with Provisions — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next the 19th. Instant. 3 o'Clock P.M. ——

3 O'Clock, February 19th. Town met according to Adjournment

Comittee appointed to make Enquiry of the Merchants & Traders in the several Wards — " Whether they will take the Price set by this State on their Goods "? — Reported, all but the Comittee for Ward N°. 2 — which Reports were accepted by the Town

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Moderator of this Meeting be desired to acquaint the Attorney General of this State, That it is the Desire of the Town, that he would give Information to the Grand Jury now sitting, of all Persons that act in Violation of the Law to prevent Monopolies &c as they shall come to his Knowledge. ——

Voted, that M^{r}. Harbottle Dorr be added to the Comittee for Ward N°. 2. to make Enquiry &c ——

Voted, that M^{r}. Jonathan Brown be of the Committee for Ward N°. 1. in the Room of Capt Thomas Adams, who declines. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to let such Persons occupy *Gratis*, 'till the farther Order of the Town, the Stalls in Faneuil Hall Market, & such only as are not Forestallers, & will bring in their Provisions, & dispose of them to the Inhabitants in larger, or smaller Quantities, [96.] Agreable to the true Intent & Meaning of the late Act to prevent Monopoly & Oppression.

Voted, that the Inhabitants of this Town be desired not to go beyond the Hay Market to purchase Fuel, or Provisions, as they would regard the Interest of the Town in general, & avoid the Displeasure of their Fellow Citizens

The Comittee appointed to consider & report what they shall judge to be the most suitable Methods to obtain a Supply of Provisions for the Inhabitants of this Town — Reported — and had to withdraw this Report ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to M^{r}. Jonathan Mason, the Moderator of this Meeting for his good Services. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at the Old Brick Meeting House, December 4th. 1776

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - - - - - read-

Upon a Motion made, Voted, to come to the Choice of a Moderator by a Hand Vote. ——

Mr. Jonathan Mason chosen Moderator of this Meeting not being able to attend. ——

Benjamin Kent Esq.
was chosen Moderator of the Meeting. ——

Samuel Barret Esq.
was chosen, unanimously, an Overseer of the Poor, in the Room of Mr. Peter Boyer, who declined serving. ——

The Article in the Warrent, Vizt. "To consider & determine, Whether a Petition shall be presented to the Great & General Court of this State, praying that this Town may be [**97.**] Enabled to raise immediately, what shall be judged & determined by the Honble. Court, to be their full Quota, or Proportion of the Number of Men, this State is to raise, for the Continental Army, act cordingly to a Resolve of the Honble. the Continental Congress, instead of draughting a Part of their Militia, as ordered by a late Act" — was read & Considered — Whereupon

Voted, that Benjamin Kent Esq.
Samuel Barret Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.
Mr. Joseph Barret
Mr. Ellis Gray
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr
Mr. Ezekiel Price
be a Committee to draught a Petition to the General Court, for the Purpose aforesaid to be reported at the Adjournment. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to To-morrow 10 o'Clock A.M. to meet at Faneuil Hall. ——

Thursday the 5th. day of December 1776, 10 o'Clock A.M. met at Faneuil Hall according to Adjournment. ——

The Committee appointed to draught a Petition to the General Court — Reported the following Draught, Vizt,

State of Massachusetts' Bay,

To the Honble. the Council & House House of Representatives of said State, in General Court assembled. ——

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston,
Humbly sheweth,

That by a late Act of this State, one fourth Part of all the able Bodied Men of the Militia is to be raised by Inlistmen, Lot, or Draught, & to remain in the Service three Months only, from the Time of their Mustering. ——

That your Petitioners always have been, & even now, [**98.**] Altho' so peculiarly reduced by the present War, are ready to contribute their *full* Proportion of Aid & Assistance *in every respect*, especially for the carrying on & supporting the present Contest.

But your Petitioners beg leave to represent to your Honors, that they have good Reason to apprehend, they could raise such a Number of Men, to serve for three Years, or during the War, as would be their full Quota or Proportion of the whole Number assigned

for this State by the Honble. Continental Congress; & that they can effect the same, near, or quite as soon, as the time in which they will be able to procure the Men, who are to serve only for three Months ——

Your Petitioners are led to this Step, not only from the Apprehension they have of being able to effect the same, but in Order to save very large Sums, that must Necessarily be expended to raise Men for three Months only, a Term scarcely sufficient to arrive even at the Seat of War; & certainly too Short, to acquire any Military Knowledge, though long enough to suffer many of the ill-Conveniencies of the Campaign; to nothing of the Advantages the Soldier has, who has seen Service, over the new Recruits — That he is seasoned to the Difficulties, & gets a Relish for that Way of Life, & is not exposed to the Disorders of a Camp, — whereas frequent Draughts, tho' for a short time, take our Men from their necessary Occupation, & give them a Habit of Idleness, which cannot fail of being very prejudicial to the State at large, & must be extremely distressing to all, & ruinous to many of their Families, whose Heads are called from them by Lot, or taken by the more disagreable Alternative of Draught. ——

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honors to give Orders, that this Town may raise its just Quota of the Levies assigned, in the Way they now propose: But in Case they cannot procure the whole in this way, the aforesaid Act may stand in force, as to any Deficiency, until the whole is compleated

And your Petitioners as in Duty bound &c

[**99.**] The foregoing Petition having been read and considered ——

Voted, that the same be accepted, & that a fair Draughts of the Petition be taken; & that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to sign & present the same to the General Court in behalf of this Town. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next, 10 o'Clock Forenoon, at the Old Brick Meeting House. ——

Met according to Adjournment, Monday the 9th. day of December, 10 o'Clock Forenoon, Old Brick Meeting House. ——

Benjamin Kent Esqr. in the Chair

After considerable Time spent in Debates, on a Motion made ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved — and it was accordingly dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified and legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on Wednesday the 5th. day of March Anno Domini 1777. ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read ——

Jonathan Williams Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting ——

The Comittee appointed by the Town, the 5th. of March last, to

apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration, the 5th. of March Instant, to perpetuate the Memory of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the fifth of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers under the Command of Capt Thomas Preston of the 29th. Regiment — Reported ——

[100.] "That having met together several Times for the Purpose mentioned in the Town Vote, they had unanimously made Choice of Benjamin Hitchburne Esq. to deliver an Oration the fifth of March Instant, who had accordingly accepted of that Service."

The above Report having been made by the Chairman of the Committee, the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted? —Passed in the Affirmative. ——

Upon a Motion made, the Town took into Consideration, what would be the best Time to have the Oration pronounced, as also what Place would be most suitable for the Purpose — Whereupon

Voted, that the Oration be delivered at 12 o'Clock at the Old Brick Meeting House, the Hall not being capacious enough to receive the Inhabitants, that attended upon the Occasion, the Committee of that Society, having, upon Application, consented that the Meeting House should be made use of for this Purpose. ——

Voted, that John Brown Esq.
Nathaniel Barber Esq.
John Pitts Esq.

be a Committee to wait upon Benjamin Hitchburne Esq. & acquaint him, that it is the Desire of the Town, that the Oration may be delivered at the Old Brick Meeting House, 12 o'Clock Forenoon ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to the Old Brick Meeting House, 12 O'Clock Forenoon ——

The Town met accordingly to Adjournment at the Old Brick Meeting House, Twelve O'Clock. ——

The Committee appointed to wait upon Benjamin Hitchburne Esq. to acquaint him with the Vote of the Town, respecting the Time & Place for the Delivery of an Oration — Reported [101.] "That said Gentleman was ready to comply with the Orders of the Town." ——

An Oration to commemorate the horrid Massacre of the Fifth of March 1770, & to impress upon the Minds of the Citizens the ruinous Tendency of standing Armies being placed in free & populous Cities &c. was deliver'd by Benjamin Hitchburne Esq, to a large & crowded Audience, and received by them with great Applause. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded,

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Benjamin Hitchburne Esq. for the spirited Oration, delivered by him, at their Request in Commemoration of the horrid Massacre perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers of the 29th. Regiment, under the Command of Capt Thomas Preston Also,

Voted, that Jonathan Williams Esq

Mr. Ellis Gray
John Brown Esq
Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq
Col: Henry Jackson
Mr. Hermon Brimmer
Mr. William Cooper

be a Committee to wait upon Benjamin Hitchburne Esqr, & in the Name of the Town to request of him a Copy of the said Oration for the Press.

On a Motion made & seconded,

Voted that Jonathan Williams Esq.
Mr. Ellis Gray
John Brown Esq
Honble. Thos. Cushing Esq.
Col: Henry Jackson
Mr. Hermon Brimmer
Mr. William Cooper
[102.] Benjamin Hitchburne Esq.

be, & hereby are appointed a Committee to apply to a proper Gentleman to deliver an Oration on the 5th. of March next, to perpetuate the Memory of the horrid Massacre, perpetrated on the Evening of the 5th. of March 1770, by a Party of Soldiers of the 29th. Regiment, under the Command of Capt Thomas Preston: And to impress upon our Minds the ruinous Tendency of standing Armies being placed in free & populous Cities in a Time of Peace; & the Necessity of such noble Exertions in all future Times, as the Inhabitants of the Town then made, whereby the Designs of the Conspirators against the public Peace may be still frustrated. ——

A Collection was made at this Meeting for Mr. Christopher Monk, a young Man now languishing under a Wound by a Shot received in his Lungs by a Shot from Preston's bloody Party of Soldiers on the 5th. of March 1770 — This Collection amounted to

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Jonathan Williams Esq, Moderator of this Meeting for his good Services.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall the 10th day of March, Anno Domini 1777, 9 o'Clock Forenoon. ——

Prayer was made by the Reverend Dr. Eliot. ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read. —

Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read ——

The Honble Thomas Cushing Esq was chosen Moderator of this Meeting by a majority of Votes, & took his Seat accordingly ——

Mr. William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing by a Majority of Votes, & took his Place accordingly. ——

[**103.**] The Town proceeded to the Choice of nine Selectmen & the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

John Scollay Esq.
Mr. Samuel Austin
Oliver Wendell Esq.
John Pitts Esq.
John Brown Esq. - - excused
Mr. Ellis Gray - - - excused
Capt Gustavus Fellows
Mr. Harbottle Dorr
James Bowdoin junr - excused

were chosen Selectmen for the Year ensuing

Adjourned to 3 o'Clock P.M.

3 o'Clock P.M. Met according to Adjournment ——

The Inhabitants bro't in their Votes for a Selectman in the Room of Mr. Bowdoin, who declined serving, & upon sorting the Votes it appeared that Nathaniel Appleton Esq was chosen — Upon his also declining to serve the Town bro't in their Votes for one in the Room of Mr. Appleton, & upon sorting them it appeared that

Mr. Thomas Greenough

was chosen a Selectmen for the Year ensuing. ——

The Town bro't in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, & upon sorting them it appeared that

The honble. William Phillips Esq.
Isaac Smith Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Mason
Capt Saml. Partridge
Mr. Saml. Whitwell
Mr. John White
Edward Procter Esq.
Willm. Powell Esq.
Mr. John Sweetser junr.
Mr. Edward Payne
104.] Samuel Barret Esq.
Mr. Samuel Hewes

were chosen Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing. ——

The Inhabitants bro't in their Votes for a Committee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety, & upon sorting them it appeared, that ——

Col. Nathaniel Barber
Mr. John Winthrop
William Makay
Edward Procter Esq.
Benja. Hitchburne Esq.
Perez Morton Esq.
Capt John Simkins
Mr. Moses Grant
Francis Shaw Esq.
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr
Mr. Benja. Burt
Dr. Peter Roberts

Mr. Henry Bass
Mr. Willm. Davis
Capt Amasa Davis
Mr. Hermon Brimmer

were chosen a Comittee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety for the Year ensuing. ——

The Town bro't in their Votes for Sixteen Fire Wards, & upon Sorting them it appeared that

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Greenough Esq.
Mr. William Cooper
Edward Procter Esq.
Caleb Davis Esq.
Major Andrew Symms
Capt. Joseph Webb
[105.] Mr. John Winthrop
Francis Shaw Esq.
Thomas Crafts Esq.
Ebenezer Hancock Esq.
Paul Reviere Esq.
Mr. Thomas Tileston
Capt John Pulling
Capt Gustavus Fellows
Capt John Ballard

were chosen Fire Wards for the Year ensuing. ——

Adjourned to the next Day 10 o'Clock forenoon

Tuesday 10 'Clock forenoon met according to Adjournment. ——

Upon a Motion made & seconded, the Question was put — Whether Collectors of Taxes shall be chose seperate from Constables — Passed in the Affirmative

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pounds, Fine, to those persons who shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing. ——

Votes for twelve Constables bro't in, the persons chosen into the Office are

Messs. John Wells
Thos. Stevinson
Joseph Helyer - - - - - - - - excused
George Thomas
Thomas Bradford - - - - - - - excused
Joseph Foye
John Russel
Saml. Greenleaff
Benjamin Clark
John Coverly
John Bennet
Matthew Wakefield
John Bartlet
[106.] Messs. William Crafts
John Lambert junr.
Nathaniel Wales

Stephen Wales
Nathan Hancock

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing. ——

Messrs. Clement Collins
Abraham Howard
Andrew Symms
Joseph Buttler
Benjn. Page
Joseph Ford
John Rogers
Thomas Uran
Edward Ranger
John Bulfinch jun.
Joseph Ballard
James Blake
John Lambert junr.
Nathan Hancock
Ebenezer Flood
John Champney

were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing ——

Mr. Henry Blaisdel

was chosen a Surveyor of Boards for the Year ensuing. ——

Benjamin Austin Esq.

was chosen a Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. Samuel Bangs
Jacob Holland
Benjamin Bass
Nathan Green

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

[107.] Mr. Adam Colson

was chosen an Informer of Deer for the Year ensuing.

Messrs. John Owen
Peter Cotta
Manaasseh Masters
Benjn. Bernard
Edward Cowell
Israel Cook
Richard Flood
Samuel Prichard
Benjamin Sault
Jacob Williams
Joshua Pico

were chosen Cullers of Staves & Hoops for the year ensuing

Messrs. John Wears
Elijah Searl
Willm. M'Fadden

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing ——

Mr. George Hamlin

was chosen a Hayward for the year ensuing. ——

Messrs. Jonathan Farnum ——	Ward No.	1
William Williams		2
John Harris		3

Joseph Butler	4
Jonathan Stoddard	5
John Rogers	6
Edward Lad Saunders	7
Thomas Bradford	8
Thomas Russel	9
Samuel Selben	10
Philip Freeman junr.	11
Nathaniel Cobbet	12

were chose Scavingers for the Year ensuing

[108.] The Selectmen

were chose Surveyers of the High Ways for the Year ensuing

Messrs. John White
John Lucas

were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing ——

Jonathan Williams Esq.
Mr. John Sweetser
Mr. Timothy Newell

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing ; & they are desired & impowered to give all needful Direction to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, & affixing the Price thereof from time to time, as occasion shall require; & the said Committee are desired & directed to cause all the Grain belonging to the Town to be ground at the new Mills, near the Mill Bridge, lately occupied by Mr. Leonard. ——

Messrs. Thomas Green
John Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing. ——

Voted, that Mr. Ebenezer Storer
Mr. Ezekiel Price
Nathanl. Appleton Esq.
Col. Thomas Daws
Mr. Tuttle Hubbard

be & they hereby are appointed a Committee to audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, & also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are impowered, when they shall audit said Accounts, to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance Money for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums as shall be so advanced, until they shall have audited said Accounts; & they are also desired to report from time to time, a State of the Treasury respecting the Debts & Credits, & on any other Matters that they may think proper. ——

[109.] The Town bro't in their Votes for Two Selectmen in the room of Mr. Brown & Mr. Gray, who declined serving, and upon Sorting the Votes it appeared that

Jonathan Williams Esq.
Capt John Preston

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing. ——

Votes for a County Treasurer, bro't in, & being sealed up in Town Meeting, were delivered to Mr. Constable Bennet, to be by him returned to the Court of General Sessions at their next Meeting. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be, & hereby are given to Mr. Benjamin Dolbear for his faithful Services, as an Overseer of the poor, for many years past. ——

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assesors, & upon sorting them it appeared that

Deacon Benjamin Church
Mr. Jonathan Brown
Capt Samuel Downe
Gyles Harris Esq.
Mr. William Lowder
Mr. George B. Gidney
Mr. Thomas Foster

were chosen Assessors for the Year ensuing ——

On a Motion made Voted, that the Assessors be, and hereby are directed, to prepare a List of the Names of such persons as have left the Town, with the Amount of the Taxes they have usually paid. ——

Adjourned to Fryday next 3 'Clock P.M. ——

Fryday the 14th. of March 3 o'Clock P.M. Town met according to Adjournment. ——

Messs. Nathaniel Greenough
Edward Gray
Lindal Pitts
[110.] Joseph Sherburne junr.
Elias Parkman
Andrew Brimmer
Henry Prentice
James Foster Condy
William Sherburne
William Mollineux
Nicolas Bowes
Capt Isaac Cazneau

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

Voted, that the Assessors be, & hereby are impowered & directed to sit for Abatement of such Taxes, as they shall judge reasonable, on every Wednesday until the last Wednesday in April inclusive, & no longer, saving that they be allowed to sit the two last Weeks in November, for the Abatement of the Taxes of such persons as had not an Opportunity of applying in the above limited time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which time they are also allowed & impowered to abate the Taxes of such persons as may have died insolvent between the said last Wednesday in April & the last Day of November. ——

Messs. Thomas Crafts
Joshua Bentley
Joseph Martin
William Fallass

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, but declined accepting & were accordingly excused by the Town. ——

Voted, that the Consideration of Schoolmasters Salaries & all other Salaries & Grants be referred over to next May Meeting. ——

The Article in the Warrant, vizt. "To consider whether any thing farther can be done by the Town, to promote the salutary Intentions of the late Act, To prevent Monopoly & Oppression," was read & considered — Whereupon ——

[111.] Voted that M^{r}. Ezekiel Price
Samuel Barrett Esq
Thomas Daws Esq
M^{r}. Joseph Barrel
M^{r}. William Bant
M^{r}. Martin Brimmer
be a Committee to consider said Article, and report to the Town at the Adjournment. ——

The Clause in the Warrant, vizt. "To consider what Steps are necessary to prevent the Inconveniences & Danger that may happen from persons resorting to, or residing in the Town, who are justly suspected of being innimical to the American States" — was read & Considered — whereupon

Voted, that Benjamin Kent Esq.
M^{r}. William Davis
M^{r}. William Gooch
Col Edward Procter
M^{r}. William Bant
Capt John Ballard
Francis Shaw Esq.
be a Committee to consider the same, & report at the Adjournment

Capt Edward Carnes
was chosen Surveyor of Hemp, in the Room of M^{r}. Austin, who has resigned. ——

The Town bro't in their Votes for twelve Wardens & upon sorting them it appeared, that

C. John Simpkins
M^{r}. John Lowell
M^{r}. Samuel Sloan
Capt Samuel Ridgway
M^{r}. Stephen Hall
Capt Samuel Payne
M^{r}. Adam Colson
[112.] M^{r}. Thomas Baley
M^{r}. Moses Grant
M^{r}. Thomas Fleet
M^{r}. Henry Bass
M^{r}. Nathaniel Barber
were chosen Wardens for the Year ensuing. ——

Adjourned to next Wednesday Fortnight 3 'Clock P. M.

3 'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment

On a motion made, the Question was put, vizt. "Whether the Town will reconsider their Vote for referring the Grant of Moneys to May next?" — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

Voted, that the Sum of Eight thousand five Hundred Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls & Estates within this Town for the

Relief of the Poor, & defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year. ——

Voted, that the Sum of one Shilling & six Pence on the Pound be, & hereby is allowed to such persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall collect, provided they pay the same into the several Treasuries within four Months — Twelve pence on the pound on all such other Sums, as they shall have paid into said Treasuries, within Eight Months; & Six Pence on the Pound on the Remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to collect, provided such Remainder shall be fully paid in, on or before the second Monday in March 1778 — This Premium as above expressed, appears to be just & equitable, & an ample Allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with Diligence & Fidelity; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the Satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful Discharge of their Duty in said Office, & complying with this Vote.

The Committee appointed "To consider whether any thing further can be done by the Town to promote the salutary Intentions of the [113.] Late Act to prevent Monopoly & Oppression" — gave in the following Report, which was accepted, Nem: Cont: — Viz^{t}.

Whereas there are now in this Town a Number of Persons some of whom have removed from the Country hither, others whose Principles are known to be *unfriendly* to our present Contest with Britons, & some, who would sacrifice the public Interest to satisfy their Lust & Appetites, are daily using every Means in their Power, not only to frustrate the good Intention of the Act of this State to prevent Monoply & Oppression, but to lessen & depreciate the Value of the Money established by the Continental Congress, & the several United States in America — that such public Enemies may be known, & to avoid as much as may be the fatal Consequences of the wicked Designs of those Persons — It is — Resolved that the Committee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety, be, & hereby are desired, to use their utmost Endeavors to obtain the Names of those Persons, who shall hereafter be so daring, as to be guilty of the Breach of said Act, & represent them in the Public News Papers, as dangerous Enemies to the United States of America, by endeavoring not only to lessen, but destroy the Medium of Trade, and thereby unavoidably reduce the People of this State if not the *united* States to the utmost Misery & Distress. ——

The Committee appointed to consider what Steps are necessary to prevent the Inconveniency & Danger that may happen from Persons resorting to, or residing in the Town of Boston, who are justly suspected of being *Inimical* to the United States," — Report, as our unanimous Opinion, That a Committee of Twelve suitable persons one in each Ward, be chosen to take the Names of all Persons, who have come to reside in Town, since the 19th. of April 1775 — said Committee are also to take the Names of all Refugees & other disaffected Persons & to take the Names of the Towns & States, from whence such persons come, who are justly

suspected of being inimical to the States of America; & make Report from time to time [114.] To the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety, to be used by them, as Occasion may require; — also, that said Committee be directed, in a Body, or by the Major part of them, to visit said Wards. ——

Benjamin Kent, Chairman p Order ——

The foregoing Report having been read & considered, it was Voted, that the same be accepted — and that ——

Messs.	Joshua Bentley . . . for Ward N°.	1
	John Lambert	2
	Benjamin White	3
	Alexander Edwards	4
	Capt Jonathan Stoddard	5
	Benjamin Sumner	6
	John Rogers	7
	Benjamin Edes	8
	Nicolas Bowes	9
	Adam Colson	10
	William Fallass	11
	William Gooch	12

be a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid ——

On a Motion, Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to apply to the Committee of Sequestration for the Fire Buckets in the Province House, they to be accountable for the same, & to dispose of them as they may judge for the Safety of the Town. ——

The Town brought in their Votes for four Collectors, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. Benjamin Cudworth
Mr. Josiah Torry
Mr. Oliver Greenleaff — excused
Mr. Benjamin Sumner

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to Mr. Cushing the Moderator. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[115.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, Saturday, the 3d. Day of May 1777 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting — read ——

The honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen Moderator, but not attending,

Benjamin Kent Esq.

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting by a Hand Vote ——

The Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To take the Mind of the Town with respect to the best Method of Preparation & Defence at this important Crisis" — and after some Debate

Voted, that Mr. Henderson Inches
Col: Sears

Col: Thomas Daws
Mr. Read
Col: Thomas Crafts
Mr. Ellis Gray
Col: Sergeant
Robert Pierpoint Esq
Col: Jabez Hatch

be a Committee to take this Article of the Warrant under Consideration & report at the Adjournment ——

Adjourned to 4 o'Clock P.M.——

4 o'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment ——

Capt John Marston, Chairman of the Comittee to purchase Muskets with the Money allowed by the Province, for broken Guns left by the Enemy, being called upon for the purpose Reported verbally — That he had purchased a Number of small Arms & disposed of them to the Inhabitants, agreable to the Vote of the Town.

The Comittee of the Town appointed to consider the best Method of Preparation & Defence, at this important Crisis beg leave [**116.**] To report, That it is the Opinion of the Town, that the Harbour be block'd up by the sinking of the Hulks (& of Cheavaux de Frize if necessary) so far as to prevent the Entrance of the Enemy's Ships ——

That a Petition be preferred to the General Court, that they would give leave to the Board of War to furnish the Militia of this Town with the necessary Arms & Accoutrements, they being accountable for them ——

That the General Court be requested to suspend the Draught ordered for Providence, & in lieu thereof accept a Number of Volunteers to do Duty in this Town & Harbor, under Col: Crafts, at the present Emergency — & that they immediately take some effectual Measures to secure us from our internal Enemies, which we apprehend cannot be accomplished but by a total Seperation ——

The Committee also beg leave to recommend to the Town that they give the Committee of Fortifying all the Assistance in their Power, for compleating the Works on Noddles Island

HENDERSON INCHES, P Order ——

The above Report having been read & accepted, Voted, that the Committee who made the above Report, be desired to dräft a Petition, & present the same to the General Court, first laying the same before the Town for their Approbation.

Adjourned to Monday 5th Instant, 9 'Clock A.M.

Monday 9 'Clock forenoon, met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee appointed to draught a Petition to the General Assembly, Reported as follows,

May it please your Honors,

The Inhabitants of the Town of Boston deeply affected with the Necessity & Importance of their being prepared against any Invasion from our cruel & inveterate Foes, deprived of their Arms by the perfidious Conduct of General Gage, & disappointed in

their many Exertions to replace them, earnestly pray your Honors, that you would give leave to the Board of War to furnish them with the [117.] Necessary Arms & Accoutrements for their Militia, the Town being answerable for the same ——

And your Petitioners farther pray, that your Honors would remit the last Draught ordered to be made upon them, for Providence, & in Lieu thereof accept a Number of Voluntiers, to do Duty in the Town & Harbour under Col: Crafts. ——

Alarmed at the Danger to which they are continually exposed, by the Residence of Prisoners & other disaffected Persons among us — a danger which in an Invasion, might be attended with fatal Consequences — Your Petitioners pray your Honors, that immediate Orders be given for the Reception & necessary Confinement of Prisoners of every Rank — & that effectual Measures be taken to secure us from our internal Enemies, which we apprehend cannot be accomplished, but by a total & instant Seperation. ——

They therefore pray that whenever it shall appear to such Persons as the Honble Court shall please to appoint, that the Residence of any Person or Persons in this Town, is inconsistent with the public peace & safety, that they be appointed & impowered to remove immediately such Persons & their Families, to any place of the United States, and making their Return, without leave first obtained of the General Court, Treason against the State. ——

The foregoing Petition having been read & considered, Voted, that a fair Draught be taken of the same, and presented immediately to the General Court by One of our Representatives signed by the Town Clerk, in behalf & by Order of this Town

Voted, that Col: Isaac Sears
Capt Fortesque Vernon
Capt Saml. Dashwood
Capt Gustavus Fellows
Capt Job Prince
Capt Isaac Phillips
Capt Silas Atkins

[118.] Be a Committee to advise & assist the Committee appointed by the General Assembly for sinking Hulks in the Harbour. ——

Adjourned to Wednesday next 10 'Clock forenoon.

May 7th Wednesday 10 'Clock forenoon met according to Ajournment. ——

The Resolve of the General Court relative to several Matters contain'd in the Town's Petition — laid before the Town — also a Resolve of the General Court respecting a form of new Government. ——

Voted, that the Selectment be requested to apply to the Field Officers of the Boston Regiment, for a Return of the Names of such persons belonging to said Regiment, as are not furnished with Arms, & are not able to purchase them; & the Selectmen are hereby impowered to receive said Arms &c agreable to the Resolve of the General Court for that Purpose, & that they de-

liver the Arms to the Captains of the several Companies, & by them delivered to said persons, they to be accountable for the same.

On a Motion made, Voted, that the forgoing Vote be reconsidered, & that the Selectmen be directed & improved to apply to the Board of War, for the 750 Arms to be by them disposed of, agreable to the Resolve of the General Court. ——

Voted, that the Selectmen be, & hereby are directed & impowered, to borrow on Interest a sum of Money, sufficient to purchase therewith Ammunition for the Town Stock, & the Supply of the Inhabitants according to the Law: And the Town Treasurer is hereby directed & impowered to give his Notes for the same; & that the Selectmen have a sufficient Number of Cartriges made up for immediate use.

Moved & Voted, that the Comittee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety, immediately wait upon the Council of this State, & inform them, that, as the several Forts in this Town, & [**119.**] Harbor are now destitute of Soldiers, & the Town apprehend immediate Danger therefrom, that the Council would therefore be pleased to take such Order thereon, as may be neccessary for the present Security of said Forts. ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to Benjamin Kent Esq. Moderator for his good Services. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitant of the Town of Boston duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at Faneuil Hall, Saturday the 17th. day of May Anno Domini 1777. ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting, read. ——

Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq. chosen Moderator of this Meeting by a Hand Vote, having excused himself from Serving. ——

Mr. Jonathan Mason was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, & took his Seat accordingly. ——

Warrant for calling this Meeting again read; also the Act relative to inimical Persons in this Town. ——

The Article in the Warrant Vizt. "To chuse by Ballot some Person firmly attached to the American Cause, to procure Evidence that may be had of the inimical Dispositions, towards this, or any of the United States, of any Inhabitants of this Town, who shall be charged by the Freeholders of being a Person whose Residence in this State is dangerous to the public peace or Safety" — was read, & after long Debate — a motion was made, that the Sense of the Town be taken, whether they will now come to the Choice of such a Person — the Motion being withdrawn, [**120.**] The Inhabitants were directed to bring in their Votes for a Person to procure Evidences &c agreable to a late Act of the Court. —The Votes being bro't in & sorted, it appeared, that

William Tudor Esq.

was chosen for the purpose aforesaid. ——

Adjourned to 3 o'Clock P. M. ——

3 O'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment.

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to retire, & make a List of such Persons as they shall know, or believe to be inimical to the united States, and lay the same before the Town. ——

Voted, that Mr. Justice Greenleaff be desired to lay before the Town the Books, which contain the Names of the Associations &c. — which were accordingly laid before the Town. ——

The Selectmen laid before the Town a List of persons they judged to be inimical to the united States. ——

Voted that Mr. John Winthrop junr.
Thomas Crafts Esq.
Col: Reveire
Deacon Caleb Davis
Col: Isaac Sears

be a Comitte to wait upon One of the Honble. Council of this State & desire that the Persons voted by the Town to be inimical persons to these States, be immediately apprehended & confined ——

Adjourned to Monday Morning 10 o'Clock

Monday Morning 10 'Clock met according to Adjournment ——

The Committee chosen on the Saturday, reported, That they had applied, agreable to the Order of the Town, unto One of the Honble. Board, that the Persons Voted to be inimical to these States, might be apprehended & confined — But that they had received for [121.] Answer, that this could not be done by him without Advice of Council ——

The following List of such Persons belonging to this Town, as have been endeavouring since the 19th. of April 1775, to counteract the united Struggles of this & the neighboring States, in the Opinion of a Majority of this Meeting is the List which the Town Clerk is to deliver to two or more Justices of the Peace for this County — *Quorum Unus* — agreable to a late Act of the General Assembly — Vizt.

Ebenezer Norwood
Mather Byles D. D.
Benjamin Phillips
Dr. James Lloyd
Daniel Hubbard
Dr. Isaac Rand junr.
John Tufts
Edward Wentworth
William Perry
Dr. Samuel Danforth
George Lush
Edward Hutchinson
Thomas Edwards
Hopestill Capen
Patrick Wall
Benjamin Davis
Benjn. Davis junr.
David Parker
James Perkins

Nathaniel Cary
Richard Green
William Jackson
Samuel Broadstreet
[122.] Thomas Amory
Charles Whiteworth
Dr. Thomas Kast
John Erving Esq.
George Bethune
Dr. Miles Whitworth

The Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider and determine what Number of Persons shall be chose (at a Meeting soon to be called) to represent the Town, in the next General Assembly, was read — and after some Debate, it was moved that the Number of Seven be chose — And the Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

On a Motion, Voted, that what Matters remain unfinished be referred to the next Town Meeting ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to Mr. Jonathan Mason, for his Services, as Moderator of this Meeting. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at Faneuil Hall, Thursday the 22d. day of May Anno Domi. 1777 ——

Prayer was made by the Revd. Dr. Mather.

The Precept & Warrant for calling the Meeting read

Sundry Laws - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - read

The Town having at a former Meeting determined to make Choice of Seven Persons to represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly, to be held at the Town House in Boston [123.] Upon Wednesday the 28th. of May current — The Inhabitants were accordingly directed to withdraw, & bring in their Votes for Seven Representatives; & others it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received, but such as are unfolded, & that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock. ——

The Votes being bro't in for Seven Representatives, the Number of the same were found to be five hundred twenty three, & upon sorting them, it appear'd that the Six following persons were chosen, Vizt.

The Honble.	John Hancock Esq. - - - - - - - - -	304
	John Pitts Esq. - - - - - - - - - -	520
	David Jeffries Esq. - - - - - - - -	307
	Caleb Davis Esq - - - - - - - - - -	
	John Brown Esq - - - - - - - - - -	301
	Mr. Ellis Gray - - - - - - - - - -	518

Voted, the Choice of the other Person to represent the Town be referred to the Afternoon. ——

Mr. Scollay, Chairman of the Selectmen informed that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 4 O'Clock. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to the Afternoon 3 'Clock. ——

3 'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment

The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw & bring in their Votes for one Representative; & the Votes being brought in accordingly, the Number of the same were found to be two hundred & thirty, & upon sorting them, it appeared, that

Oliver Wendell Esq. - - - - - - - - - - - - 132

was chosen. ——

The Choice of Representatives being over & declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, & bring their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; [124.] Accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew & brought in their Votes, & upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mr. Samuel Austin

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

The Article in the Warrant, Vizt. "To consider whether they will, in Conformity to a Resolve of the late General Assembly, instruct their Representatives relative to forming a Constitution of Government; as also, what farther Instructions may be necessary for the Representatives that may be chosen," — was read, & after considerable Debate had thereon — It was moved & the Question accordingly put, vizt. "Whether the Town will give their Representatives Instructions to form a Plan for a new Government"? — Passed in the Negative. ——

On a Motion, the Question was put, "Whether the Town will give their Representatives any Instructions whatsoever"? — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that Thomas Crafts Esq.
John Winthrop Esq.
Mr. Joseph Barrel
Perez Morton Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.

be, & hereby are appointed a Comittee to prepare a Draught of Instructions for our Representatives in General Assembly. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that our Representatives be instructed to move in the General Assembly, for a Repeal of the Act to prevent Monopoly & Oppression. ——

Mr. Brimmer, lately chose one of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety, having declined Serving, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, & bring in their Votes for another Person, & the Votes being accordingly bro't in & sorted, it appear'd, that

Capt. Isaac Phillips

was chosen one of the Comittee of Correspondence &c. for the Year ensuing. ——

[125.] Voted, that the Selectmen be, & they hereby are appointed to act upon the List of Jurors. ——

Agreable to a Writ from Ezekiel Price Esq. Clerk of the Sessions &c — the following Persons were drawn out of the Jury Box, as Jurors for a special Court, to be held for the Tryal of such Persons as the Town have represented to be Inimical to these States and dangerous to the public Safety — Viz^{t}.

Messrs. Jeremiah Belknap
Edward Carnes
Samuel Dashwood
William Fallass
John Newell
John Ballard

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next, the 26th. Instant, 3 O'Clock Afternoon ——

Monday 26th. of May, 3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment. ——

The Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for the Gentlemen chose to represent this Town in the next General Assembly, Reported the following Draught. Viz^{t}.

To the Hon^{b}^{le}. John Hancock Esq, David Jeffries, Caleb Davis, Oliver Wendell, John Brown, John Pitts & Ellis Gray, Esq^{rs}.

Gentlemen,

You have been chosen by the Voice of the Town of Boston to represent them in the Great & General Court, & as it must be agreable to you to know the Minds of your Constituents in all important Matters, we think fit to give you the following Instructions. ——

With respect to the General Courts forming a new Constitution, you are directed by a unanimous Vote of a full Meeting, on no Terms to consent to it, but to use your Influence, & oppose it [126.] Heartily, if such an Attempt should be made, for we apprehend this Matter (*at a suitable time*) will properly come before the people at large, to delegate a *Select Number for that Purpose*, & *that alone*, when some things which we esteem *absolutely necessary* to a good Form, may be viewed by a General Court, in the Light of *self denying Ordinances*, which it is natural to consider, are always disagreable to human Nature: Among other things we have *peculiarly in View making the Council intirely independent of the House, & to prevent the lately too prevalent Custom of accumulating Offices in One Persone:* We could wish to establish it, as a certain Rule, that no One person whatever, be entrusted with more than *One* Office at a time (& for the Discharge of it, let there be honorable Allowance) & to keep the *Members of the General Court from accepting any:* This we apprehend will have a happy Effect at large, & is agreable to the Custom of all States until Corruption & Bribery destroy the Principles of Vertue. ——

You are also directed to move for, & exert yourselves to get an immediate & total Repeal of the *Acts*, commonly called the *Regulating Acts*. Our reasons for desiring this Request are: Because we have done our utmost to carry them into Execution, and find them so formed, that it is impossible to accomplish it;

they are (however well designed) a growing Source of Animosity & ill Will, tending to raise a Difference between Town & Country, at this — important Crisis, an Event ardently wished for by our Enemies, but ought to be guarded against with the utmost Caution by every Friend to this Country, for we are sure that our *Interest & Happiness* of our Brethren in the Country; & if ever the Trial is made, we shall assuredly find, that a Disunion & Seperation of such Interest will be *the Ruin of both.*

Because, we apprehend, the said Acts have very greatly raised the Price of almost every Article of Life, & we have great [**127.**] Reason to fear the Evil will be growing, so long as they are in Being — though are firmly of the Opinion, if the Acts are repealed, & *our Trade freed from the cruel Shackles, with which it has lately been in judiciously bound*, that a *plentiful Import will, as assuredly lower the Prices, as a Scarcity has raised them:* For it has been a known & acknowledged Truth, by all Nations, which were *wise enough to encourage Commerce*, that Trade must regulate itself; can never be clogged but to its ruin; & always flourishes when left alone; it is justly compared to a Coy Mistress, she must be courted with Delicacy, & is ruined by force. ——

Because it has had the greatest Tendency to destroy our Currency, & render Money of little Value; it has thrown many of *the honest & fair Traders*, (who wish to retain a good Commerce) out of Business, & set up in their Room *Mushroom Pedlars*, who adulterate their Commodities, & take every Advantage, thereby bringing a Disgrace upon Commerce — without which Town nor Country are worth defending. ——

Because we are sure, that very large, & much wanted Supplies, the Property of this State & expected here, are now ordered into some of the Sister States, until these Acts are repealed — In short,

Because we have experienced every ill we could possibly fear from these Acts, & have felt the least Advantage from them: We cannot therefore but view them, repleat with innumerable Evils, directly opposite to the Idea of Liberty, & without a Possibility of doing any Good; the *first Act*, in its Consequences introducing *all* Kinds of Knavery, & the *second* closes the *horrid Scene* with Perjury. — If these Acts should be repealed, we conclude the Land-Embargo will fall of course. ——

If there should be an Attempt to have the pay of the Representatives taken out of the Public Chest, you are directed strenuously to oppose it, as, the only just Method we can conceive of, is, for *each Town to pay their own Members.* ——

[**128.**] You are to move that immediate Application be made to Congress, that all the *States Money* might be redeemed with *Continental Currency*, & each State charged by the Continent for what they receive — If this could be accomplished, and the Money redeemed by *Loan-Certificates*, it would operate doubly in favor of the States, for us *they* carry Interest *they* would be speedily hoarded, & being taken out of Circulation, would give the remaining Currency a proportionably *greater Value*, and in that Case would be nearly equal to a Tax: Besides, the Currency

being all of the *same Species*, a Counterfeit would be more easily discovered, than when a great variety of Money is passing, & it would then be the joint Interest of *all the States* to keep the *Credit good*, & might be a farther Means of strengthning the Union. ——

These Matters, with all others that may come before the General Court, we leave to your firmness & Prudence, and trust your Exertions in the common Cause will be such as shall recommend you to your Fellow Citizens, & what is more your Gain, *you* to the Approbation of God & your Conscience.

The foregoing Draught of Instructions to our Representatives having been read & considered Paragraph by Paragraph — the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted, & given to our Representatives as their Instructions?" — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

On a Motion, Voted, that the foregoing Instructions be printed in the News-Papers. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred & Twenty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt, for his Salary, as Master of the South Grammar School, for the year ensuing, the same to be paid quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence from the last Quarter. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Hunt, in Addition to his [129.] Salary of £120 - - in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook for his Salary, as Master of the Writing School in the Common, the year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence from the Expiration of the last Quarter. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Samuel Holbrook, in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Tileston, in Consideration of his Salary, as Master of the North Writing School the year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence from the last Quarter. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Tileston, in Consideration of the present high price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Carter, for his Salary, as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street, for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid quarterly, as it shall become due & to commence from the Expiration of the last Quarter. ——

Voted, that the farther Sum of Eighty pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. James Carter, in Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and thirty Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto David Jeffries Esq. for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, & for all his Expences in that Office.

Voted, that the farther Sum of Seventy pounds be allowed & paid out of the Treasury unto David Jeffries Esqr. [130.] In Consideration of the present high Price of the Necessaries of Life. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that it be left to the Gentlemen, the Selectmen, to make such an Addition to M^r. Cooper's Allowance as Town Clerk, in Consideration of the high Price of Provisions, as they shall judge to be a suitable Living. ——

The Town having brought in their Votes for four Wardens, upon sorting them it appeared, that

Capt William Bell
M^r. William Crafts
M^r. Samuel Ruggles
M^r. Daniel Bell

were chosen Wardens for the Year ensuing. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified and legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on Monday the 7th. day of July, Anno Domini 1777. ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read.

Voted, to come to the Choice of a Moderator by a Hand Vote

M^r. Jonathan Mason

was accordingly chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz^t. "To consider whether any Alteration shall be made with respect to the Collectors Premiums & Bonds" — was read — Whereupon the Question was put — "Whether any Alterations shall be made with respect to said Bonds and Premiums — Passed in the Negative. ——

[131.] The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Collector of Taxes in the Room of M^r. Oliver Greenleaff who has declined serving, & upon the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

Francis Shaw Esq.

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the Year ensuing. ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz^t. "To consider of the Request of the Schoolmasters, that Ushers may be allowed them in Consideration of the great Encrease of Schollars — was read — whereupon — Voted,

That the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and hereby are directed to appoint Ushers for One, or all the Schools if they shall apprehend that Assistance is wanted. ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz^t. "To consider what is proper to be done, relative to impounding Horses that may be found going at large on the Common Lands; — was read — whereupon, Voted, that the Hayward be directed to do his Duty with respect to the impounding Horses &c as the Law points out the same.

The Article in the Warrant Viz. "To consider what Measures shall be taken relative to weighing Hay — and the allowance to be made the Hay-Weigher — was read — whereupon

Voted, that this Matter be left to the Gentlemen the Selectmen, for them to act therein, as they shall judge proper. ——

The Article in the warrant Viz. "To consider whether any farther Steps shall be taken for Collecting the Accounts from the Inhabitants of the Losses sustained by the ministerial Troops — was read — whereupon

Voted, that the Chairman of the Committee for the several Wards for collecting an Account of the Damages sustain'd by the British Troops &c. since the Boston Port Bill, be desired to call immediately upon the Inhabitants in their respective Ward. [**132.**] For an Account of said Damages, agreable to the Hand Bills lately published & deliver'd them; & that said Comittee report to the Gentlemen the Selectmen their doings therein as soon as may be that the same may be laid before the Town — also

Voted, that the Selectmen, agreable to a former Vote, be desired to fill up said Committees in Case of the Absence or Sickness of any of them. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next, being the 9th. of July 3 'Clock P. M.

And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.

Wednesday July 9th. 3'Clock P. M. ——

Met according to adjournment. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that Joseph Greenleaff & Henry Jackson Esqrs. be excused from serving on Comittee for Collecting Damages sustained in Ward, N°. 6. ——

Voted, that Messs. Daniel Bell & Isaac Peirce be added to the Comittee of Ward N°. 6, for collecting the Damages sustain'd from the Enemy by the Inhabitants of said Ward. ——

Voted, that Messs. John Rogers & Benjamin Richardson be added to the Committee of Ward N°. 8 — for collecting the Damages sustained from the Enemy by the Inhabitants of said Ward; in the Room of Capt John Bradford & Capt Charles Williams, who have been excused from serving. ——

Voted, that Newmen Greenough Esq be added to the Committee of Ward N°. 1. for collecting Accounts of the Damages sustained from the Enemy by the Inhabitants of said Ward, in the room of Capt Fortesque Vernon, who declines serving. ——

Voted that the thanks of the Town be given to Mr. Jonathan Mason for his Services, as Moderator of this Meeting. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved. ——

And the Meeting was accordingly dissolved

[**133.**] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled, at Faneuil Hall, on Wednesday the 23d. Day of July Anno Domini 1777 ——

Warrant for calling the Meeting — read —

On a Motion made, the Question was put—Whether a Moderator should be chosen by a Hand Vote — Passed in the Affirmative ——

Honble. Thomas Cushing Esqr. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting ——

An Objection have been made to the proceeding on Business, on a Suggestion, that the Inhabitants had not been fully warned the Matter was taken up, & after some Debate the Question was put — " Whether the Town will now proceed upon Business — Passed in the Affirmative ——

The Clause in the Warrant Viz. " To consider and determine, whether, agreable to the Proposal & Desire of a number of the Inhabitants — a Comittee shall be appointed, & supplied with such sums of Money, as shall be tho't sufficient to procure such of the Necessaries of Life, as may serve to alleviate the Distresses of the poor Inhabitants of this Town; or to agree & determine upon such other Measures, as may be judged necessary to answer the salutary Purpose aforesaid " — was read — Whereupon

Voted that Mess^s. Ellis Gray
Joseph Barrel
Thomas Walley
Ezekiel Price
Edward Payne
Nathl. Appleton
Thomas Crafts

be a Committee, to consider this Article at large, & report at the Adjournment, what they think necessary to be done, to aleviate the present, and prevent the future Distresses of the poor Inhabitants of this Town. ——

[134.] Mess^s. Thomas Tileston
Saml. Dashwood
Joseph Loring

were chosen Jurors for a Maritime Court, to be held at Boston the 29th. of July next, 10 'Clock Forenoon. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday next, 3 'Clock P. M.

Thursday 3 'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment

The Committee appointed to consider the Article in the Warrant, relative to the Distress of the poor Inhabitants, — Report ——

That a Committee be appointed to procure Subscriptions from such Persons as are willing to lend the Town, without Interest, a Sum not exceeding £8000 - - to be paid into the hands of the Town Treasurer, to be appropriated to the Purchase of such Articles as the Inhabitants stand in need of — The Treasurer to give Receipts for the Money so lent, to be paid on Demand. ——

That a Committee of — Persons be appointed to purchase on the best Terms, such Quantities of the Necessary Articles, as they shall judge proper, not exceeding the Amount of Money so subscribed, & that the said Comittee be impowered to draw upon, & shall be accountable to the Town Treasurer for the same; and that the said Comittee be impower'd to deliver out the said Goods to such persons in each Ward, as they shall appoint, whose Busi-

ness it shall be to retail and the several Articles deliver'd him to the respective Inhabitants of his Ward only, at such Price, as the Committee for purchasing shall direct, & which shall not exceed the first Purchase, & the Necessary Charges — And the said Committee shall make such Allowance for Waste & Retail, as they shall think just — And the persons appointed to retail shall sell for ready Money only, & shall pay to the Committee the Money, so (& so fast as) received, after the abovesaid Allowance is deducted. ——

[135.] And the said appointed Retailers shall set down the Names of the Persons they supply, recommending to them the utmost Frugality in the Use of the several Articles during Scarcity. — And no Person, or Family shall receive a second Supply, 'till all the Articles first received by him or them, is by them consumed. — The Committee are also allowed to supply such Coasters as bring Wood to Town from time to time, with as many of the necessary Articles they have on Hand, as they can conveniently spare — the Wharfinger engaging to dispose of the said Wood for Cash only in small Parcels & at the Rates purchased of the Coaster, with the customary Allowance for Carting & Wharfage.

The Money raised by the proposed Subscriptions, to be appropriated & improved for the purpose aforesaid only, & for so long a time as the Distresses of the people may make this Mode of Trade necessary, & the Lenders are willing to continue their Money in this public Service. ——

And it is earnestly recommended to all persons in Trade (notwithstanding the Appointment of the aforesaid Committee) who are possess'd of the necessary Articles of Life, that they would immediately open their Stores, & sell indiscriminately to all that apply, & thereby convince their Fellow Citizens, that it is their Intention, so far as is in their power, to alleviate the Distresses of the present Day. — Which Report having been read & considered — the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted? — Passed in the Affirmative — Whereupon

Messrs. Ellis Gray
Joseph Barrell
Thomas Walley
Ezekiel Price
Edward Payne
Nath'l. Appleton
Thomas Crafts

[136.] Be a Committee to procure Subscriptions agreable to the aforesaid Report — And

Messrs. Peter Boyer
Thomas Walley
Joseph Henderson
Joseph Callender
Ebenezer Sever
John Leverett
Habijah Savage

were appointed a Committee to purchase necessary Articles, and dispose of the same for the Relief of the poor Inhabitants, as pointed out in said Report. ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to the hon^ble. Thomas Cushing Esq, for his good Services, as Moderator. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled, at Faneuil Hall, Tuesday the 28th. day of October 10 O'Clock A. M. Anno Domini 1777. ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read

Benjamin Kent Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting. ——

The Town Clerk having acquainted the Town, that being just recover'd from a Fever, the stormy Weather would not permit his attending the Meeting. ——

M^r. Harbottle Dorr

was chosen Town Clerk Pro Tempore ——

The Article in the Warrant relative to the providing [137.] For the Non-Commissioned Officers & Soldiers Families, as have engaged in the Continental Service for this Town — was read and considered — Whereupon

Voted, that a Comittee be now chosen, pursuant to the Directions of a Resolve of the Great & General Court or Assembly of this State, relative to making Provision for the Families of such Non commissioned Officers & Soldiers, as have engaged in the Continental Service for this Town &c

Voted, that Capt John Ballard - - - - - - - Ward N°. 2
M^r. Edward Green - - - - - - - - - - - 9
M^r. Joseph Callender - - - - - - - - excused
M^r. Joseph Hall - - - - - - - - - - - 6
M^r. Nicholas Bowes - - - - - - - - excused

be a Committee for the Purpose aforesaid. ——

Voted, that Application be made to the Several Churches & Congregations in this Town, that on next Lord's Day, a Contribution be made, in order to purchase the Necessaries of Life of the Families of such of the Inhabitants, as are Non-commissioned Officers & Privates, in the Army of the United States, & that the Monies so collected be paid into the Hands of the Committee appointed pursuant to the Resolve of the General Court, to be by them disposed of for the Use aforesaid. ——

Voted, that Ellis Gray Esq.
M^r. Ezekiel Price
Oliver Wendell Esq.

be a Committee for the purpose aforesaid ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday next, being the 4th of November, 10 O'Clock Forenoon. ——

Tuesday the 4th of November 1777 ——

Met according to Adjournment, 10 O'Clock Forenoon ——

[138.] Benjamin Kent Esq, the Moderator, being out of Town the Inhabitants assembled proceeded to the Choice of a Moderator Pro. Tem. by a Hand Vote, when

The Honble James Pitts Esq.

was chosen Moderator of this Meeting Pro Temp ——

The following Letters from the Honble. Viscount Demauroy Brigadier General in the French Army, was, by M^r. Ezekiel Price, to whom it was directed, laid before the Town, Viz.——

Sir,

I beseech you to receive One Hundred Dollars for the Soldiers Wives & for their Children — permit me, that I may associate myself with your Fellow Citizens to help the poor Sufferers. ——

With the Respect due to your worthy Characters;

I am

Gentlemen

Your Obedient Servant

Visc^t. Demauroy

Brigadier Genl. in the French Army

Boston Novr. 3^d. 1777 ——

Upon the above Letter's being read ——

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of this Town be given to the Honble. Viscount Demauroy, Brigadier General in the French Army, now in this Town, for his late generous Donation for the Benefit of the Families of such of the Inhabitants, as are Soldiers in the Army of the united States — and that

M^r. Ezekiel Price
Col: Nathaniel Barber
Thomas Daws Esq.

be a Committee to present the same ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Committee to receive Donations for the Families of those Men, who have inlisted into the Continental Army, be enlarged to Twelve, & that One be chosen for each Ward. ——

[139.] M^r. Joseph Callender & M^r. Nicholas Bowes having desired to be excused, they were accordingly excused from serving on the Committee of Donations.

The following Persons were chose, as an Addition to the Committee of Donations, Viz.

Mess^s. John R. Sigoney - - - - -	Ward N°. 1.
Nathaniel Hitchburne - - - - - - -	3.
Gibbins Sharp - - - - - - - - -	4.
Thomas Hitchburne - - - - - - - -	5.
M^r. Nathan Frazier - - - - - - -	7.
Benjamin Jepson - - - - - - - -	8.
Adam Colson - - - - - - - - - -	10.
Hermon Brimmer - - - - - - - -	11.
Thomas Baley - - - - - - - - -	12.

Voted, that M^r. Ezekiel Price be desired to pay the two hundred Dollars, a Donation from the French General, unto the Committee to receive Donations &c. ——

A Letter from the Gentlemen the Wardens, complaining of ill Treatment from Capt. McNeil & his Men when in Discharge of their Duty — was read — whereupon

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen, be a Comittee to wait upon the Honble. the Council & make Representation of the Interruption the Wardens have received in the Execution of their

Duty, & to request, that those Officers may be Supported in the due Execution of their Office. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Committee to receive Donations be directed to make speedy Enquiry into the State of their several Wards, & report at the Adjournment, the Circumstances of those who have gone from this Town into the Continental Army. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Fryday next the 7th instant, 3 O'Clock P.M.

Fryday November the 7th 3 O'Clock P.M. met according to Adjournment ——

[140.] The Committee appointed to make Enquiry into the State of the several Wards — Reported, that there was near five hundred Persons in this Town of the Families of such as are in the Continental Army, who are in suffering Circumstances — Whereupon, — Voted, that the Committee to receive Donations be directed to wait upon the persons, who have the Donation Money in their Hands, & receive & distribute the same agreable to the Vote of the Town ——

The Petition of Mr. Samuel Hunt, Master of the South Grammar School, "for an Addition to his present Grant on Account of the Rise of Provisions &c, & that the Town would determine on an Allowance to be made the Usher of said School, for his Services" — was read — whereupon

Voted, that Mr. Ezekiel Price
Mr. Nicholas Bowes
Mr. Daniel Parker

be a Committee to consider what farther Allowance it may be necessary to make Mr. Hunt, & the other Schoolmasters, in Consideration of the present high Prices of the Necessaries of Life — also

Voted, that the Salary of the Usher of the South Grammar School be left to the Determination of the Selectmen

A letter from the Viscount Demauroy expressing his Sense of the Honor done him by their Vote of Thanks, for the small Expression of his Regard to the American Soldiery, was laid before the Town. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall December the 8th 1777. ——

[141.] Warrant for Calling the Meeting — Read ——

The Inhabitants having brought in their Votes for a Moderator; upon sorting them it appeared, that the Honble John Hancock Esq was unanimously chosen Moderator of this Meeting ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz: "To consider whether Application shall be made to the General Court, to enable the Town to chuse an additional Number of Assessors for the more equitable Apportioning any future Tax" — was read & considered — Whereupon

Voted, that a Committee be appointed to prepare a Petition to the General Assembly, That Liberty may be granted the Town for the Choice of as many more Assessors with those already chosen, as shall make the Number of Assessors Twelve ——

Voted, that the Honble Saml. Adams Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Honble. Thomas Cushing Esq.
M^r^. Ezekiel Price

be a Committee for the purpose aforesaid, and to report at the Adjournment

The Clause in the Warrant, viz: "To consider of the Request of the Overseers of the poor, that some effectual Method may be speedily taken for providing for the poor of the Town, during the Winter, more especially for the aged & infirm persons in the Almshouse, who are improvided with Wood & Clothing & all Kinds of provisions & other Necessaries &c — was read & considered — Whereupon ——

Voted, that a Committee be appointed to draw up a true represention of the distressed State of the poor in the Almshouse & to use their best Endeavors to procure a Subscription for the immediate Loan of Monies for the present Exigencies of said poor, not exceeding the Sum of five thousand Pounds; for which Monies the Town Treasurer is impowered to give his Notes on Interest to the respective Lenders. — also ——

[142.] Voted, that the Gentlemen, the Overseers of the poor be a Committee for the purpose aforesaid, they taking with them Two person; for each Ward — & to report at the Adjournment of this Meeting. ——

On a Motion made Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble John Hancock Esq. for his generous Donation of One hundred & fifty Cord of Wood to the poor of the Town in this time of distress. ——

On a Motion made, Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be directed to call a Meeting of the Town on Wednesday next 4 O'Clock P. M. in order that Application be made to General Court for an Easement of their Taxes ——

Voted, that David Jeffries Esq. Town Treasurer be, & he hereby is directed & impowere'd, to borrow on Interest for the Use of the Almshouse, Eight hundred pounds in Addition to the Sum he has already been impowered to borrow for that purpose, & to give his Notes for the same. ——

Adjourned to Monday next, being the 15th. day of December instant, 3 O'Clock Afternoon. ——

Monday the 15th. day of December 1777 3 O'Clock P. M. met according to Adjournment. ——

The Committee appointed to consider what farther Alowances may be necessary to be made the Schoolmasters, on Account of the present high Prices of the necessaries of Life — Report ——

That they have attended that Service, & are of Opinion that the present Allowances to the several Schoolmasters are not sufficient to support them, & beg leave to propose a Grant to each of them as follows — Viz^t^.

To Mr. Samuel Holbrook - - - - - One hundred pounds
Mr. Samuel Hunt - - - - - - - One hundred pounds
Mr. James Carter - - - - - - - One hundred pounds
Mr. John Tileston - - - - - - - One hundred pounds
Mr. William Bently - - - - - - Fifty pounds

[143.] And that the same be added to their next Drāft, for their present Salaries, on the Town Treasurer. ——

The foregoing Report having been read & Considered — the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted? — Passed in the Affirmative unanimously. ——

The Committee appointed to prepare a Petition to the General Assembly, that Liberty may be granted the Town for as many more Assessors, as, with those already chosen, shall make the Number of Assessors to be Twelve reported the following Draught

To the Honble. the Council & House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts' Bay. ——

The Petition of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in Town Meeting legally assembled the 8th of December 1777 — Humbly sheweth. ——

That your Petitioners, being by law impowered to make Choice of three, five, seven, or nine persons, to be Assessors of all such Rates & Taxes, as the Great & General Court or Assembly shall by Act, or Acts by them made, order & appoint the said Town to pay towards the public Charges of the State; Did, at a Town Meeting in the Month of March last, being the time by Law appointed, make Choice of seven persons only, for the purpose aforesaid; which Number has heretofore been judged most convenient. ——

But at present, & under the particular Circumstances of this Town, your Petitioners conceive that the public Taxes would be more equally apportioned among the Inhabitants, if the Number of Assessors might be enlarged. ——

Wherefore, they pray this honble. Assembly, that an Act, or Order may pass, whereby the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston may be impowered to make a farther Choice of five meet Persons in Addition to those already chosen, to be Assessors for the present Year; & also to elect the Number of Twelve persons into the same Office for the future. ——

[144.] And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray. ——

Samuel Adams p Order. ——

The foregoing Report having been read & considered — the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted? — Passed in the Affirmative. ——

Voted, that the foregoing Petition be signed by the Selectmen, & that the Representatives be instructed to present the same to the General Assembly. ——

The Committee appointed to procure Subscriptions for the Loan of Monies for the poor of the Almshouse, not exceeding the Sum of Five thousand pounds — Reported that they should be able to procure said Sum for the Use aforesaid. ——

Voted, that David Jeffries Esq. Treasurer of this Town, be

directed to receive the Subscription aforesaid, & appropriate the same for the Use of the poor of the Almshouse. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved. ——

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duely qualified & legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled, at Faneuil Hall, Monday the 15th. day of December Anno Domini 1777 4 O'Clock P.M.

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read.

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. chosen Moderator unanimously

The Article in the Warrant Viz. "Whether Application shall be made to the Great & General Court for an Abatement on their Province Tax, & that some Method may be taken for the more equal proportioning it for the future? — was read & considered — Whereupon

Voted, that the Representatives of the Town be, and hereby are instructed, to use their Influence in the General Assembly [145.] Of this State, that a new Valuation may be immediately agreed upon for apportioning the State Tax; & that a Resolve pass for the final Adjustment of the Town's Proportion of the late & future Taxes, by said Valuation. ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz. "To consider the Request of a Number of the Inhabitants, That the Market may be shut, or put under such Regulations, as shall be for the Good of the Town" —was read & considered — Whereupon ——

Voted, that the Selectmen be directed to see that the Contract made with the Butchers, that occupy the Stalls in Faneuil Hall Market, be carried into Execution. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be dissolved, & it was accordingly dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duely qualified and legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on Fryday the 26th. day of December, Anno Domini 1777 — 3 O'Clock P.M. ——

Warrant for Calling the Meeting — read ——

Jonathan Williams Esq. chosen Moderator by a Hand Vote.

The Town having been impowered by a late Resolve of the General Assembly, to choose an Additional Number of Assessors — The Inhabitants, agreable to an Article in the Warrant, were desired to bring in their Votes for five more Assessors, & upon their being brought in & sorted, it appeared, that

Messrs. William Frobisher
John R. Sigoney
Edward Green
[146.] Benjamin Edes
Joseph Henderson

were chose Assessors for the remainder of the Year. —

The Article in the Warrant, Viz: "To consider & determine

what is proper to be farther done with respect to Faneuil Hall Market" — was read & considered — whereupon

Voted, that it be left to the Selectmen to make such Agreement with the Butchers, who occupy the Stalls in Faneuil Hall Market, respecting the Meat that is cut up, and may be left at the Market, as they may judge proper. —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified and legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on the 20 Day of January Anno Domini 1778

Warrant for calling the Meeting — read ——

The Inhabitants were directed to bring in their votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, & the same being brought in & Sorted, it appeard, that ——

The Honble. John Hancock Esq. was chosen

The Article in the Warrant relative to the Articles of Confederation was read ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz: "Whether any Steps shall be taken, for the farther Security of the Town, by enlarging the Town Watch, or otherwise" — was read, & considered —— Whereupon

[147.] Voted, that the Selectmen be directed to encrease the Number of the Town Watch to forty eight good & suitable Men, & that they be directed to patrole the Streets, from Sunsetting to 10 O'Clock at Night, at which time the Watch is to be set: — And the Watchmen of the respective Watches are to continue to patrole the Streets, from that Time, every Hour, giving the time of Night & Circumstances. ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz: "To determine on the Request of the Fire Wards, That some effectual Measures may be taken to put the Enginemen upon such a Footing, as that the several Engines may be properly attended, & taken care of, as the preservation of the Town, in case of fire, greatly depends upon it" — was read, together with the Recommendation of the Fire Wards, relative to the Encouragement which it might be proper to afford the Engine-Men — and the same being considered ——

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to consider & report upon this Matter, & also what will be a sufficient Premium for such Companies, as bring their Engines to work *first* upon the Fire that may break out in any Building in this Town. ——

The Article in the Warrant relative to Confederation, together with the Articles of Confederation, & perpetual Union between the *united States* of America, lately formed & proposed by the Honble. Congress, to the Legislative Body of this State — were distinctly read — It was then moved that this Meeting be adjourned to To-morrow Morning, 10 O'Clock, for the farther Consideration of said Articles of Confederation; and that the Selectmen take Measures to notify the Inhabitants of the Adjournment & the

Business to be transacted — The Question being put — Passed in the Affirmative, & the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.

[148.] Town met, according to Adjournment, January 21st. 10 O'Clock Ante Meridiem. ——

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Article in the Warrant, relative to the Engine Companies — also the Recommendion of the Fire Wards, with respect to said Companies — was read — Whereupon

Voted, that the farther Consideration of this Report be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting ——

The Article in the Warrant, Viz. "To consider & determine, whether, agreeable to the Recommendation of the General Assembly of this State, the Town will intrust their Representatives, to act & do, as they shall judge most for the Advantage of this & the other united States, relative to the Articles of Confederation & prepetual Union between the United States of America, lately formed & proposed by the Honble. Congress, to the Legislative Body of this State" — was read — as also the Articles of Confederation — Whereupon the following *Resolve* passed *unanimously*. —

The Articles of Confederation & perpetual Union, between the several States, now Represented in the Continental Congress, having been laid before this Town — were distinctly & repeatedly read, & maturely considered — Whereupon Resolved, as the Opinion of this Town, "That the said Articles appear to be well adapted to Cement the Union of the said States, to confirm their mutual Friendship, establish their Freedom & Independence & promote their General Welfare." — And the Representatives of the Town are hereby instructed to give their Votes in the General Assembly, that the Delegates of this State may be authorized to ratify the said Articles of Confederation, in order that the same may become Conclusive. ——

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Fryday next, the 23d. day of January instant, 10 O'Clock, Forenoon

[149.] And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned. ——

January the 23d. 10 'Clock, met according to the Adjournment. ——

The Report of the Committee chosen to consider the Article in the Warrant, relative to Engine Men, & also the Proposal of the Fire Wards, respecting the Engine Companies — was again read — and also the Amendment proposed — After considerable Debate thereon, it was moved, & the Question accordingly put, That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next, being the 26th Instant, 10 O'Clock Before Noon, which passed in the Affirmative, and the Meeting was accordingly adjourned

Monday the 26th. Day of January, 10 'Clock A M. met according to Adjournment. ——

The Committee appointed & report on the Article of the Warrant, relative to the Engine Companies, & the Recommendation of the Fire Wards, again Report with the Amendment Vizt. — That they have conferred with the Captains of the several Engine Companies, & find, That nothing short of a total Exemption from all

Military Duty will be sufficient to satisfy & encourage the Men belonging to those Companies — They would therefore propose, that Application be made to the General Court; that, in Consideration of the great Quantity of Stores belonging to the State & Continent, stored in this Town, together with the valuable Buildings, the Property of the State, the Enginemen, necessary for the Town under these Circumstances, may be deducted from the Number of the Inhabitants, & not subject to raise their Proportion of any Draughts of Men, or do any Military Duty, excepting in Cases of Alarm, when they are ready to appear & do their Duty, as the Law directs. — And as a farther Encouragement, the Committee propose, that the Premium [150.] For the Engine Company, who first bring their Engine to work first upon any Fire which shall break out in any Building in this Town, shall be advanced to Three Pounds Lawful Money. ——

John Scollay p Order ——

The foregoing Report having been duely considered — the Question was put — Viz: "Whether the same shall be accepted? — Passed in the Affirmative — also

Voted, that a Copy of the foregoing Report & Vote thereon be taken & attested by the Town Clerk, & then delivered to each of the Gentlemen, who represent this Town in the General Assembly. ——

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given hereby are given to the Honble. John Hancock Esqr. the Moderator, for his good Services. ——

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

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